Interactions and Hofstadter sub-bands in twisted bilayer graphene

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Outline

- Introduction to twisted bilayer graphene single particle and many-body effects
- Effects of finite magnetic field:
 - 1. New approach to the Hofstadter problem regardless of the topology of the band
 - 2. Application to TBG at strong coupling
 - 3. Application to the topological heavy fermions in finite B-field

*Beyond the minimal continuum model: towards a more accurate description of electronic struc.











Jian Kang

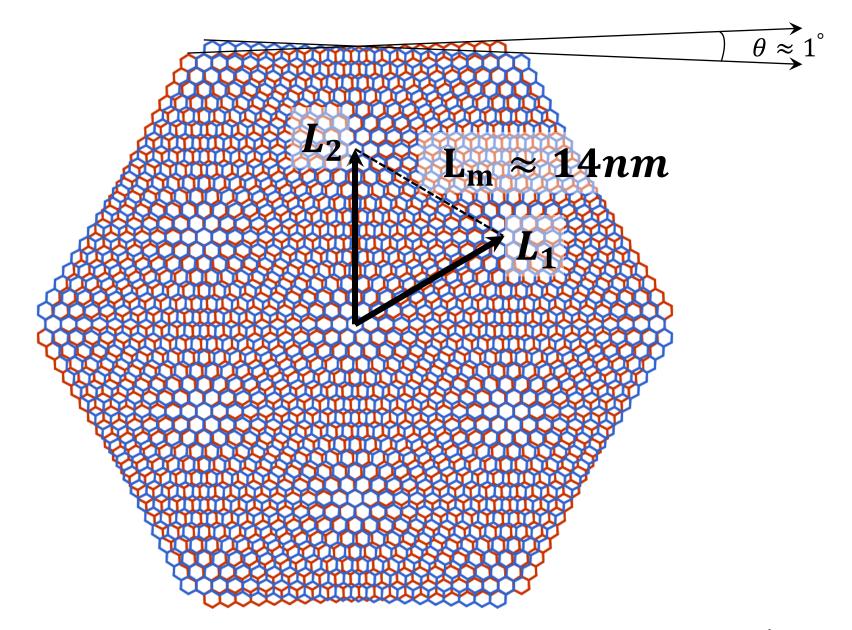
Xiaoyu Wang

Keshav Singh

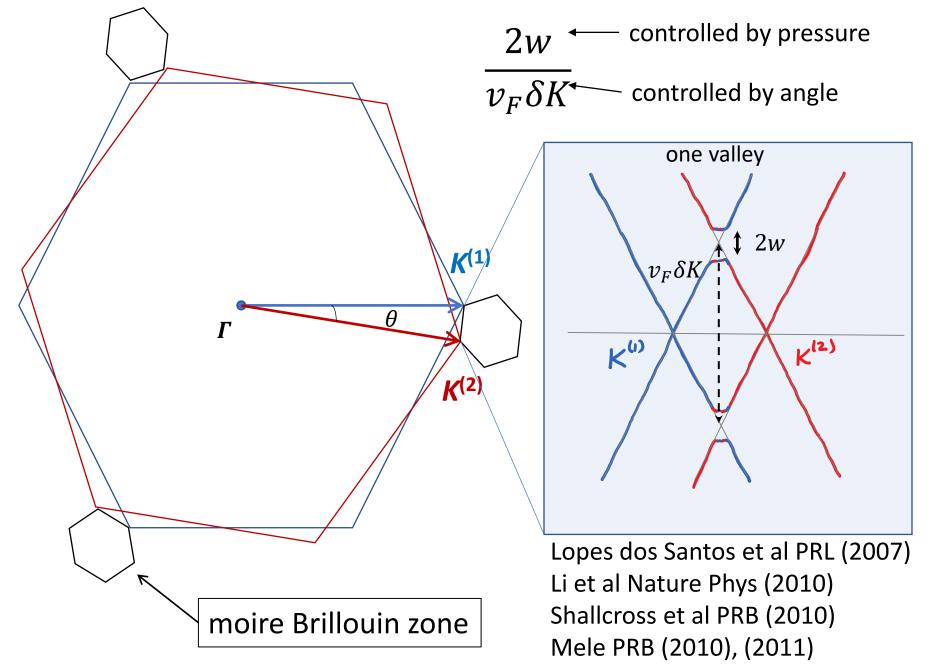
Andrei Bernevig

Aaron Chew

Jonah Herzog-Arbeitman

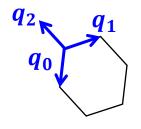


schematic (not to scale)

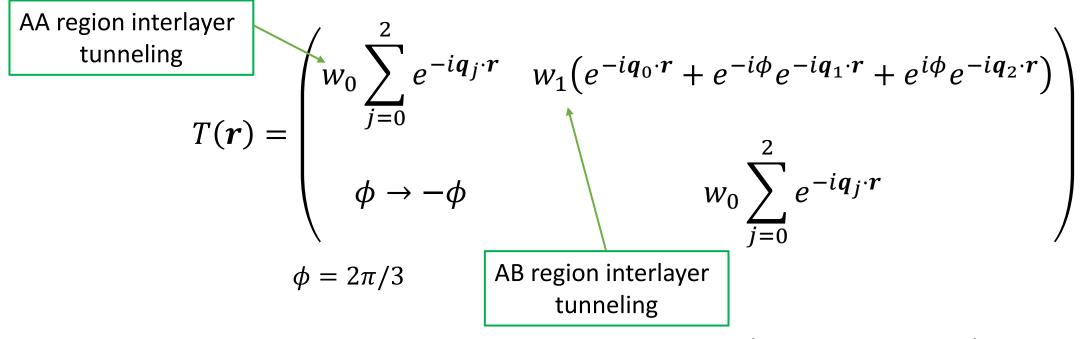


Bistritzer&MacDonald PNAS (2011)

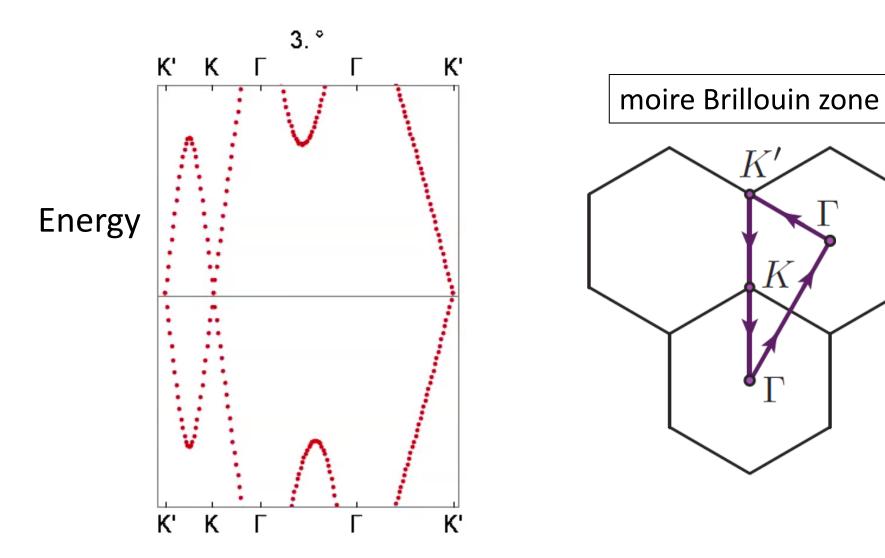
Minimal continuum model



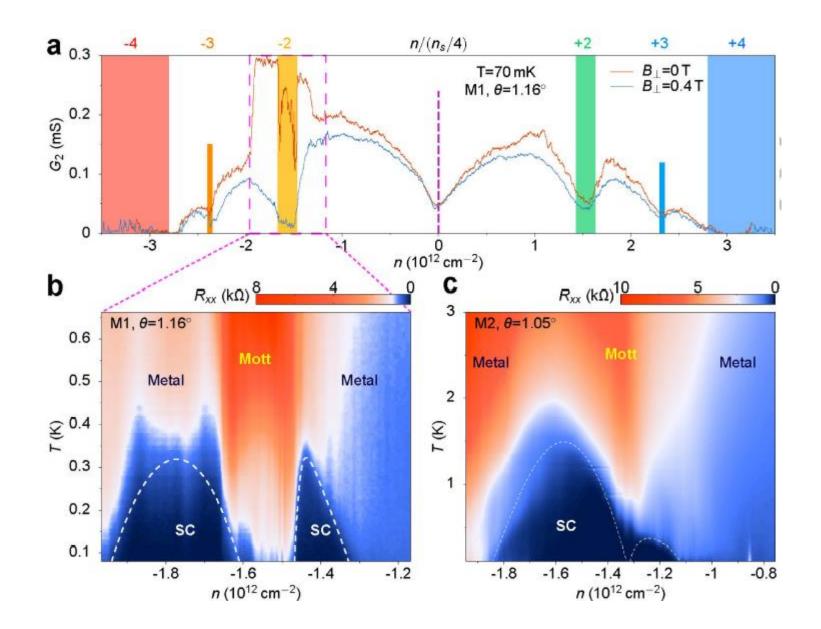
$$H_{BM} = \begin{pmatrix} \hbar v_F \boldsymbol{p} \cdot \sigma_{\theta} & T(\boldsymbol{r}) \\ T^{\dagger}(\boldsymbol{r}) & \hbar v_F \boldsymbol{p} \cdot \sigma \end{pmatrix}; \quad \begin{pmatrix} A_{top} \\ B_{top} \\ A_{bot} \\ B_{bot} \end{pmatrix}$$



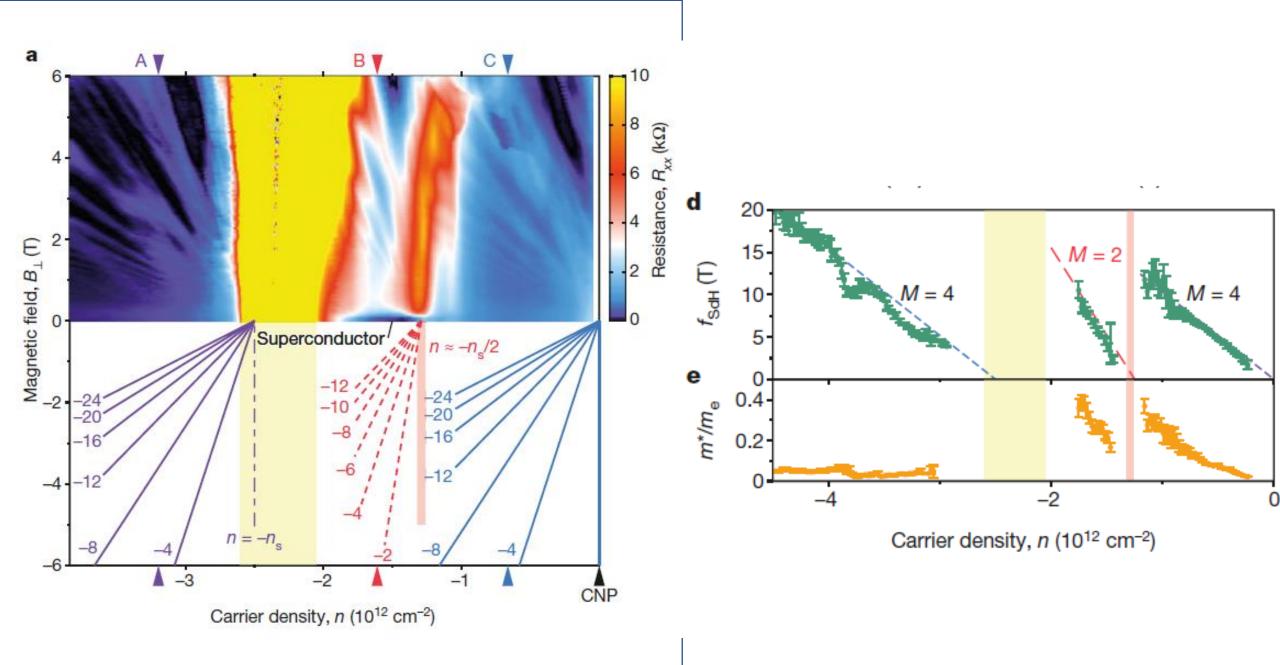
Lopes dos Santos, Peres and Castro Neto PRL (2007) Bistritzer and MacDonald PNAS (2011)



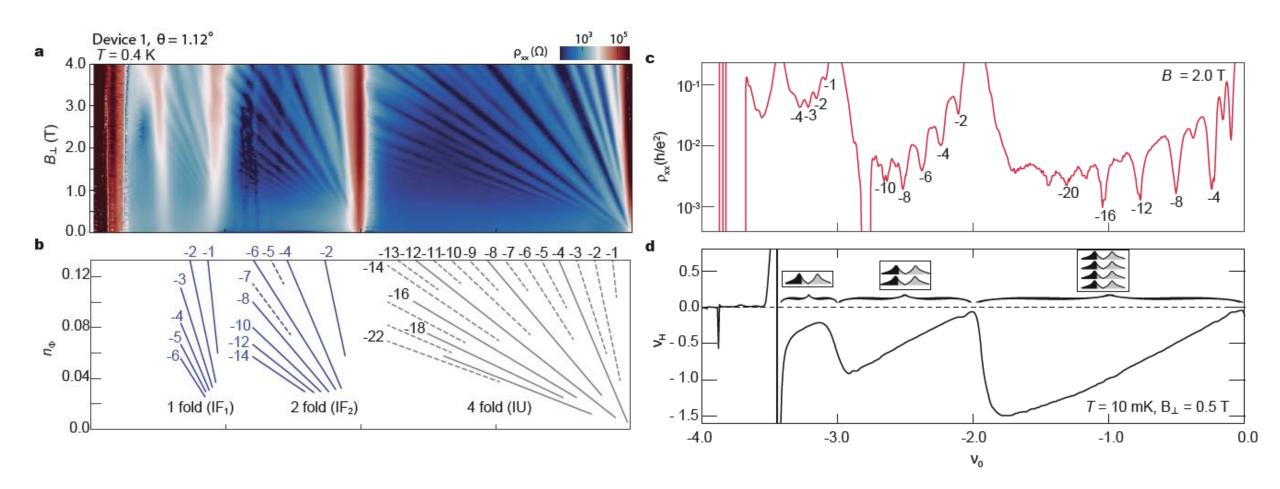
Bistritzer&MacDonald PNAS (2011)



Yuan Cao *et al. Nature* **556**, 80 (2018) Yuan Cao *et al. Nature* **556**, 43 (2018)

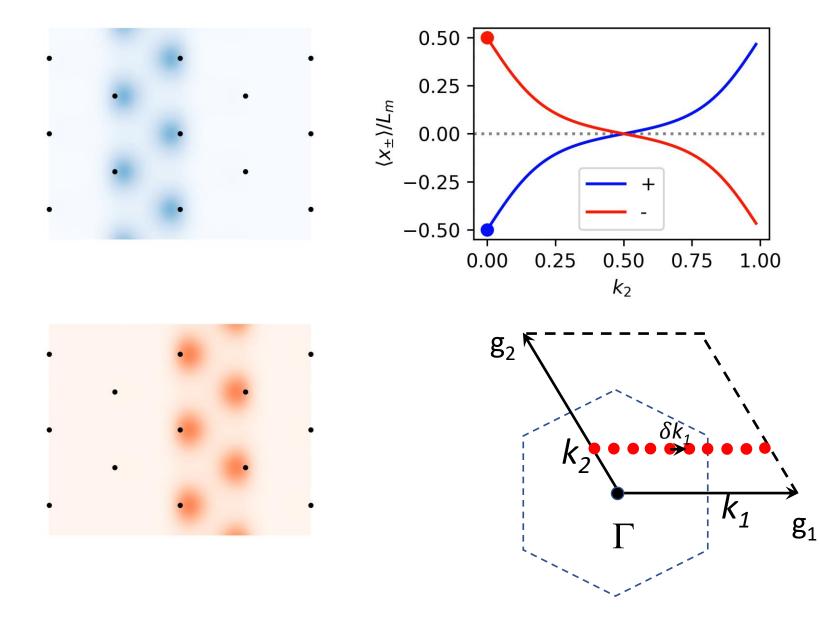


Cao et al, Pablo Jarillo-Herrero Nature 2018



Saito et al, Andrea Young Nature 2021

Band topology and hybrid Wannier states



Z. Song et al, PRL 123, 036401 (2019); J. Kang and OV PRB 2020

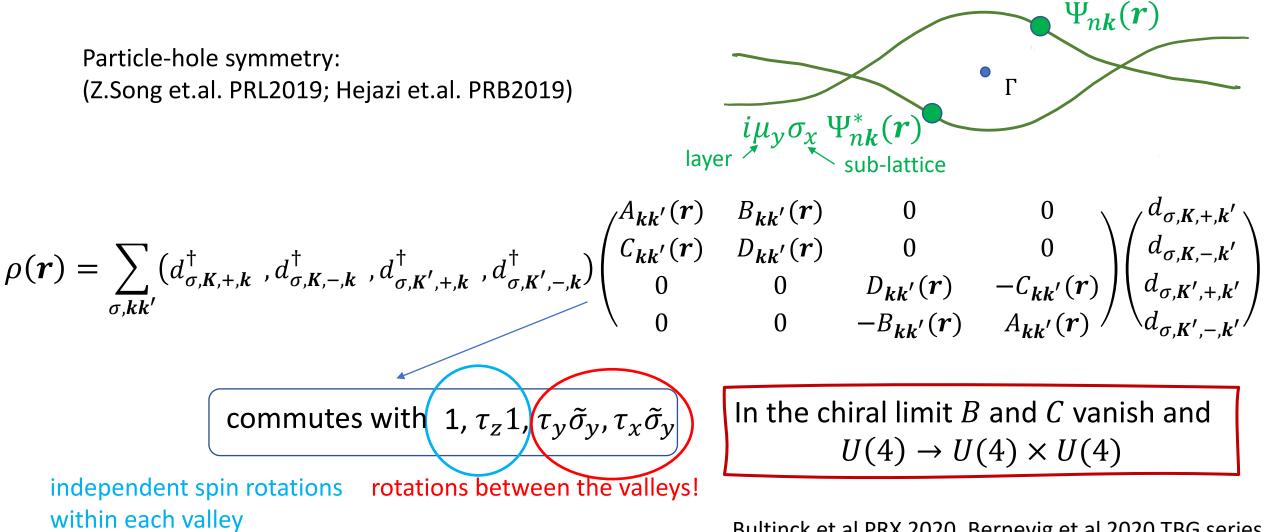
video courtesy Xiaoyu Wang (NHMFL)

Coulomb interaction is non-perturbative within the narrow bands: strong coupling Ε Stage 1 RG $E_c^* \sim O(w_1)$ Stage 2 RG (renormalized) $H_{kin} \ll V_{int} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}) \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}')$ $\times 10$ Strong Coupling Stage 2 RG $-E_c^*$ Stage 1 RG

OV and Jian Kang PRL2020

 $-E_c$

Spin-valley U(4) symmetry in the strong coupling limit



Bultinck et al PRX 2020, Bernevig et al 2020 TBG series J. Kang and OV, PRL2019 and OV and J.Kang PRL2020 Coulomb interaction is non-perturbative within the narrow bands: strong coupling E

(renormalized)
$$H_{kin} \ll V_{int} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}) \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}')$$

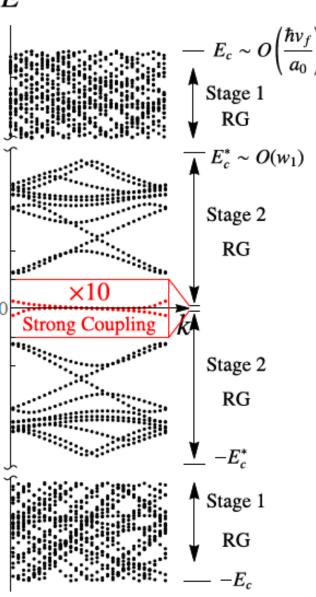
Charge neutrality point: any many-body state that is annihilated by $\delta \rho(\mathbf{r})$ is a ground state

Even integer filling: ground states are many-body eigenstates of $\delta
ho({m r})$.

Odd integer filling: if sublattice is perfectly polarized (i.e. chiral limit) Chern states are ground states

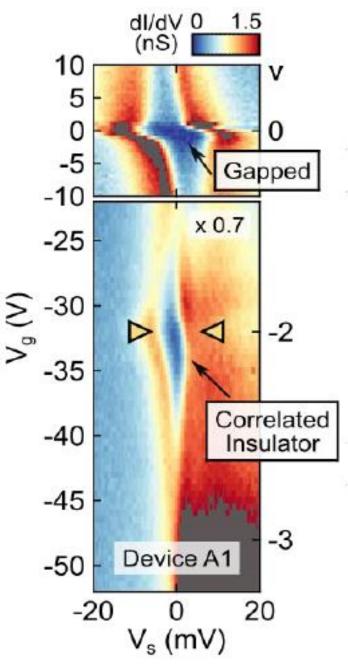
Generalized (gapped) spin-valley ferromagnets are favored by the projected Coulomb interactions

Kang and OV PRL2019; Bultinck et al PRX2020, Bernevig et al 2020TBG series



OV and Jian Kang PRL2020

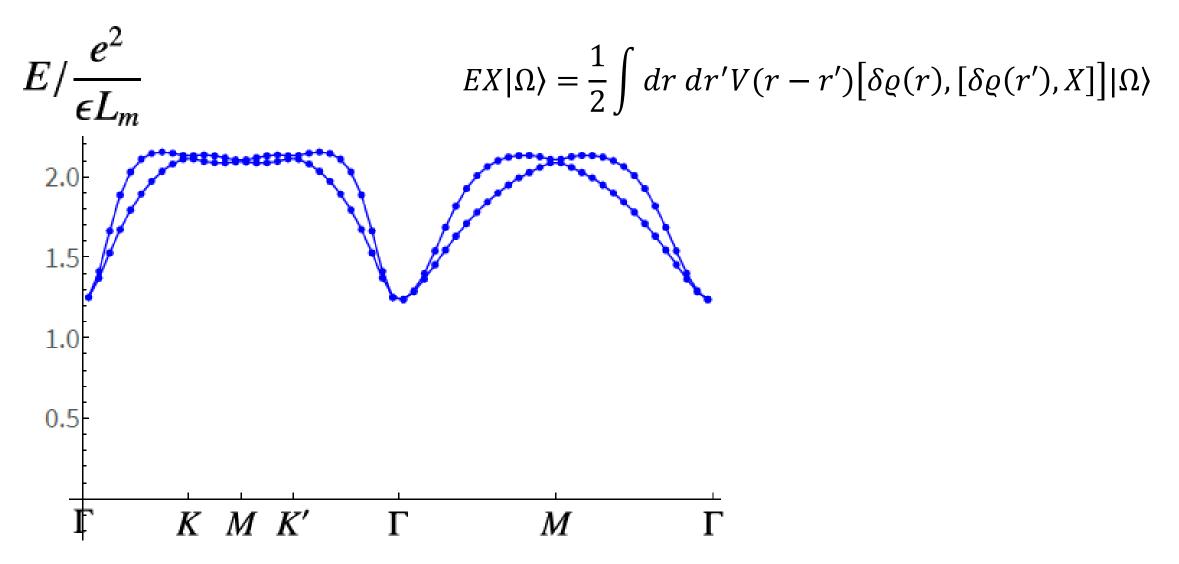
STM reveals a gap at the charge neutrality point without hBN substrate alignment in the ultra-low strain device regions



Nuckolls et al, Yazdani 2303.00024

Itineracy at strong coupling

Exact single particle excitation spectrum at CNP in the strong coupling limit



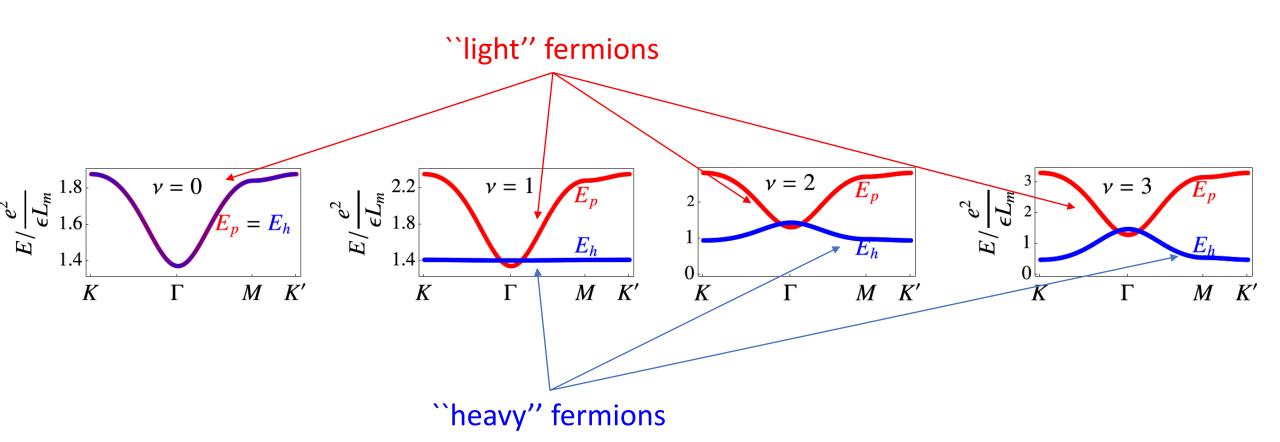
OV and Jian Kang, PRL 2020; Bernevig, Biao Lian, Regnault et al 2020TBG series

Exact single particle excitation spectrum at integer filling in the strong coupling

$$\begin{aligned} \left(E - E_{v}^{(0)}\right) X |\Omega_{v}\rangle \\ = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} \, d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}) \left[\delta \varrho(\mathbf{r}), \left[\delta \varrho(\mathbf{r}'), X\right]\right] |\Omega_{v}\rangle + \int d\mathbf{r} \, d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \left[\delta \varrho(\mathbf{r}), X\right] \delta \bar{\varrho}_{v}(\mathbf{r}') |\Omega_{v}\rangle \\ \mathcal{E}^{(F)}(\mathbf{k}) \qquad \qquad \pm \mathcal{E}_{v}^{(H)}(\mathbf{k}) \end{aligned}$$

Exact single particle excitation spectrum at integer filling in the strong coupling: chiral limit ${}^{w_0}/{}_{w_1} = 0$

 $\mathcal{E}^{hole}(\mathbf{k}) = \mathcal{E}^{(F)}(\mathbf{k}) - \mathcal{E}^{(H)}_{\nu}(\mathbf{k}) \qquad \mathcal{E}^{particle}(\mathbf{k}) = \mathcal{E}^{(F)}(\mathbf{k}) + \mathcal{E}^{(H)}_{\nu}(\mathbf{k})$



J Kang, BA Bernevig, and OV PRL 127, 266402 (2021), OV and J Kang PRB 104, 075143 (2021)

How do the strong coupling excitations Landau quantize?

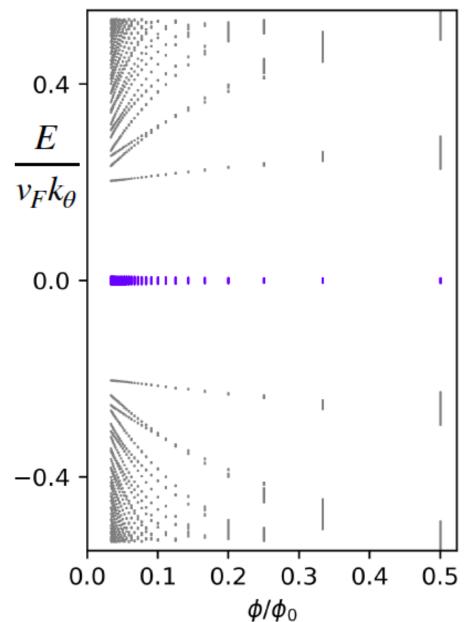
(the density operator is charge neutral, therefore it is not immediately clear how the vector potential enters)

(non-interacting) minimal continuum model in magnetic field B

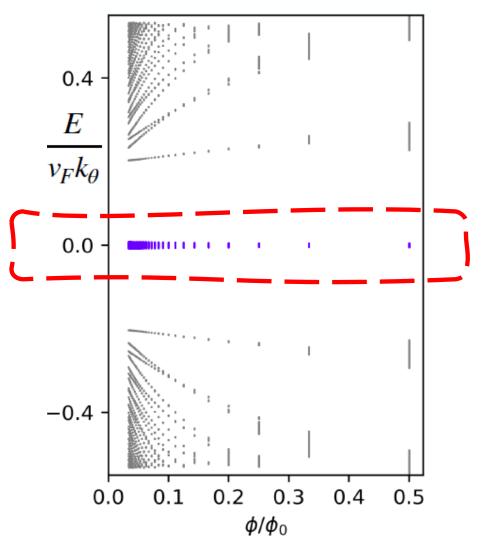
$$H_{BM}(\boldsymbol{p}) \rightarrow H_{BM}(\boldsymbol{p} - \frac{e}{c}\boldsymbol{A})$$

existing strategy: minimally substitute and expand in LLs

Bistritzer and MacDonald PRB 84, 035440 (2011) Hejazi, Liu, Balents PRB 100, 035115 (2019)



We need to find a projector onto the narrow bands at finite B-field



 $V_{int} = \frac{1}{2} \int d\mathbf{r} d\mathbf{r}' V(\mathbf{r} - \mathbf{r}') \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}) \delta \rho(\mathbf{r}')$

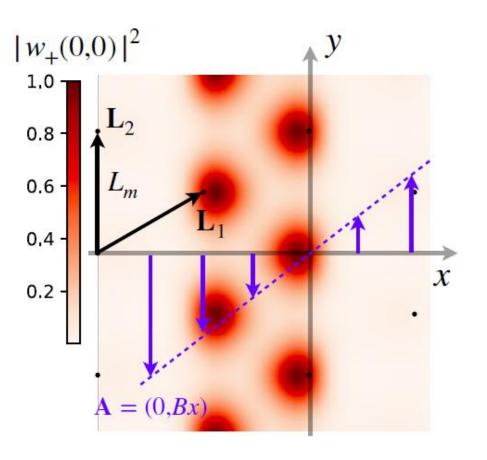
- Solving the BM model in LL basis is a bit problematic at low B because of the high number of LLs that needs to be kept
- Need a new method (that works even if the narrow bands are topological at **B**=0)

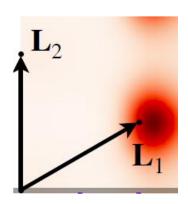
Bistritzer and MacDonald PRB 84, 035440 (2011) Hejazi, Liu, Balents PRB 100, 035115 (2019)

X. Wang and OV PRB 106, L121111 (2022)

Key insight: use B=0 hybrid Wannier states to generate the finite B basis

- for the hybrid Wannier state centered at and near the origin, the Landau gauge vector potential A = (0, Bx) can be treated perturbatively, because the region in real space where A is large gets suppressed by the exponential localization of the hybrid Wannier state.
- the discrete translation symmetry along the y —direction used in constructing the hybrid Wannier state is preserved by such A
- Generate the entire basis from the **B**=0 hybrid WS centered near origin by projecting onto irreps of MTG



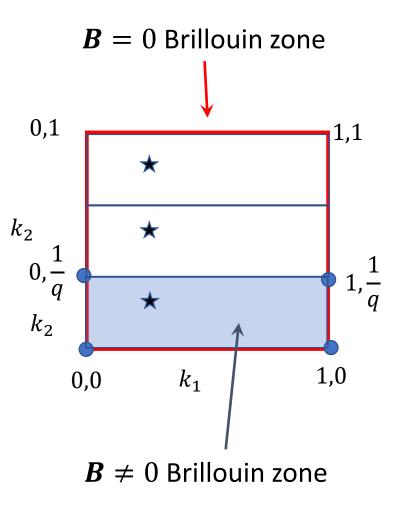


Magnetic translation group and projection onto its irreps

$$t_{L_2}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(\mathbf{r} - L_2)$$
$$t_{L_1}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\frac{eB}{\hbar c}L_{1x}y}\psi(\mathbf{r} - L_1)$$

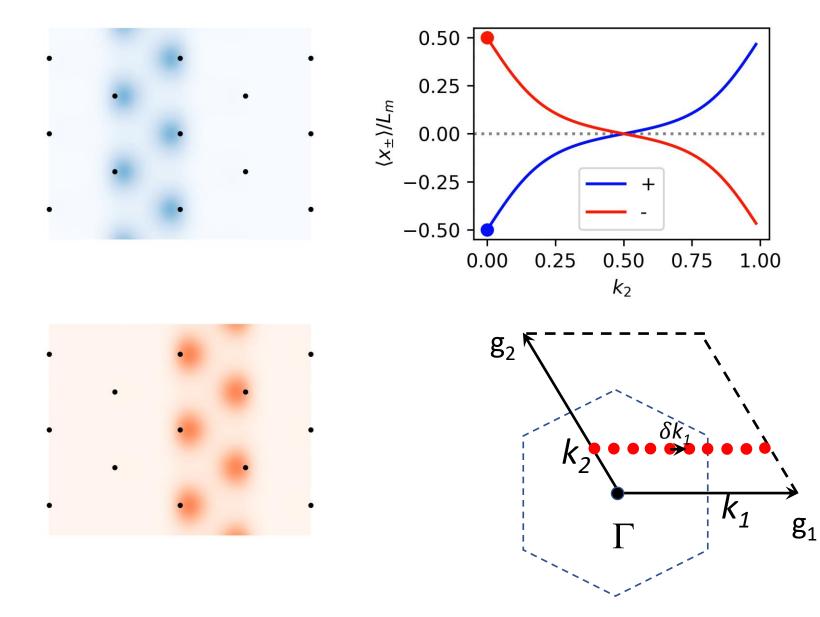
$$\frac{\phi}{\phi_0} = \frac{p}{q} \qquad \left[t_{L_2}, H_{BM} \left(p_x, p_y - \frac{e}{c} Bx \right) \right] = 0$$
$$\left[t_{L_1}, H_{BM} \left(p_x, p_y - \frac{e}{c} Bx \right) \right] = 0$$
$$\left[t_{L_2}^q, t_{L_1} \right] = 0$$

$$W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2; n_0) \rangle \sim \sum_{s=-\infty}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s k_1} t_{L_1}^s |w_{\pm}(n_0, k_2 \boldsymbol{g}_2) \rangle$$



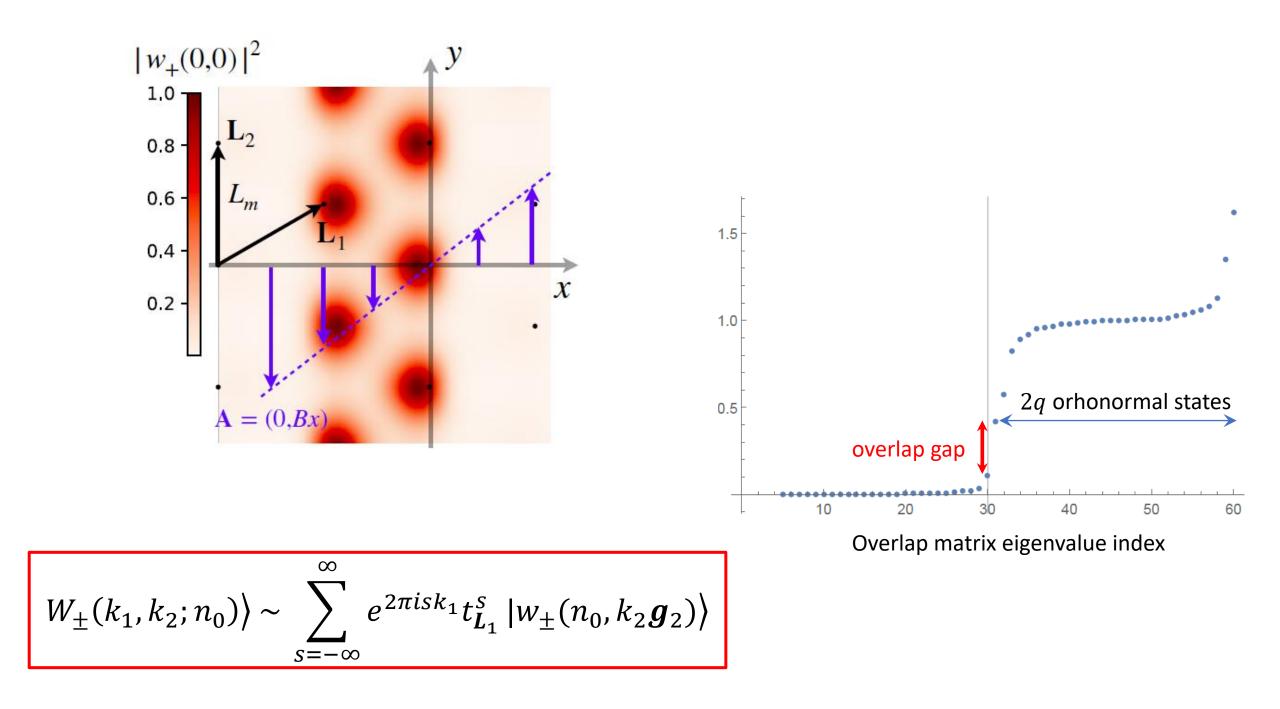
X. Wang and OV PRB 106, L121111 (2022)

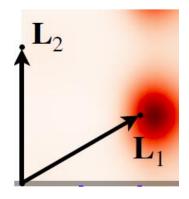
TBG band topology and hybrid Wannier states



Z. Song et al, PRL 123, 036401 (2019); J. Kang and OV PRB 2020

video courtesy Xiaoyu Wang (NHMFL)





$$t_{L_2}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = \psi(\mathbf{r} - L_2)$$
$$t_{L_1}\psi(\mathbf{r}) = e^{i\frac{eB}{\hbar c}L_{1x}y}\psi(\mathbf{r} - L_1)$$

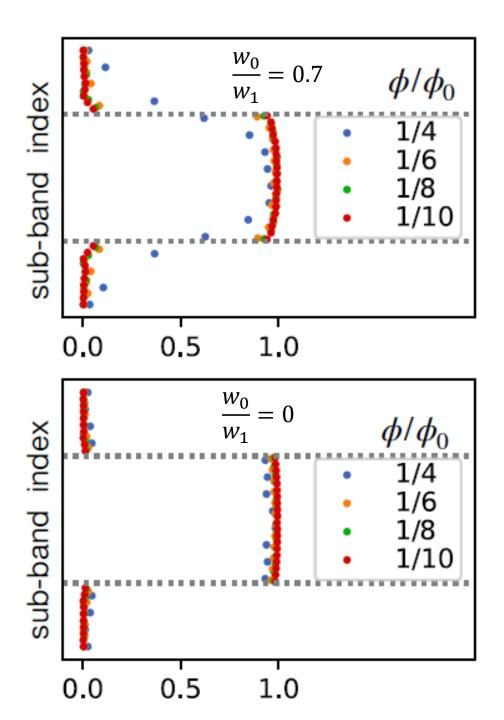
$$\frac{\phi}{\phi_0} = \frac{p}{q} \qquad \left[t_{L_2}, H_{BM} \left(p_x, p_y - \frac{e}{c} Bx \right) \right] = 0$$

$$\left[t_{L_1}, H_{BM} \left(p_x, p_y - \frac{e}{c} Bx \right) \right] = 0$$

$$\left[t_{L_2}^q, t_{L_1} \right] = 0$$

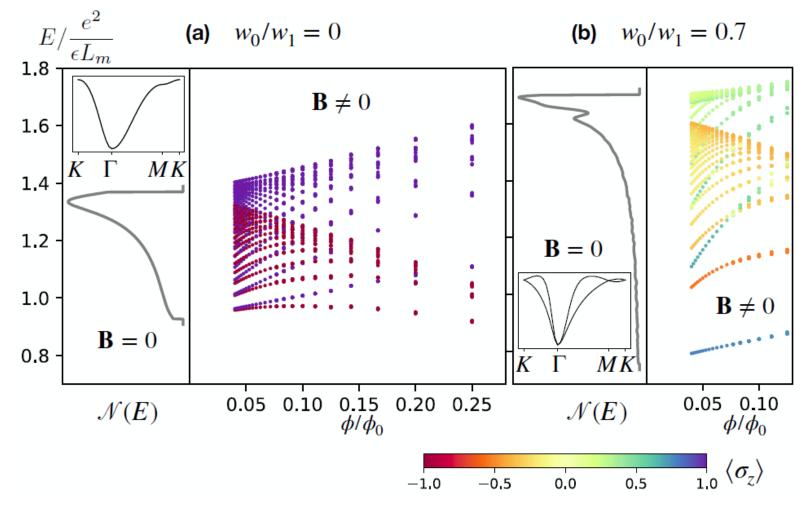
$$W_{\pm}(k_1, k_2; n_0) \rangle \sim \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} e^{2\pi i s k_1} t_{L_1}^s \left| w_{\pm}(n_0, k_2 \boldsymbol{g}_2) \right\rangle$$

 $s = -\infty$



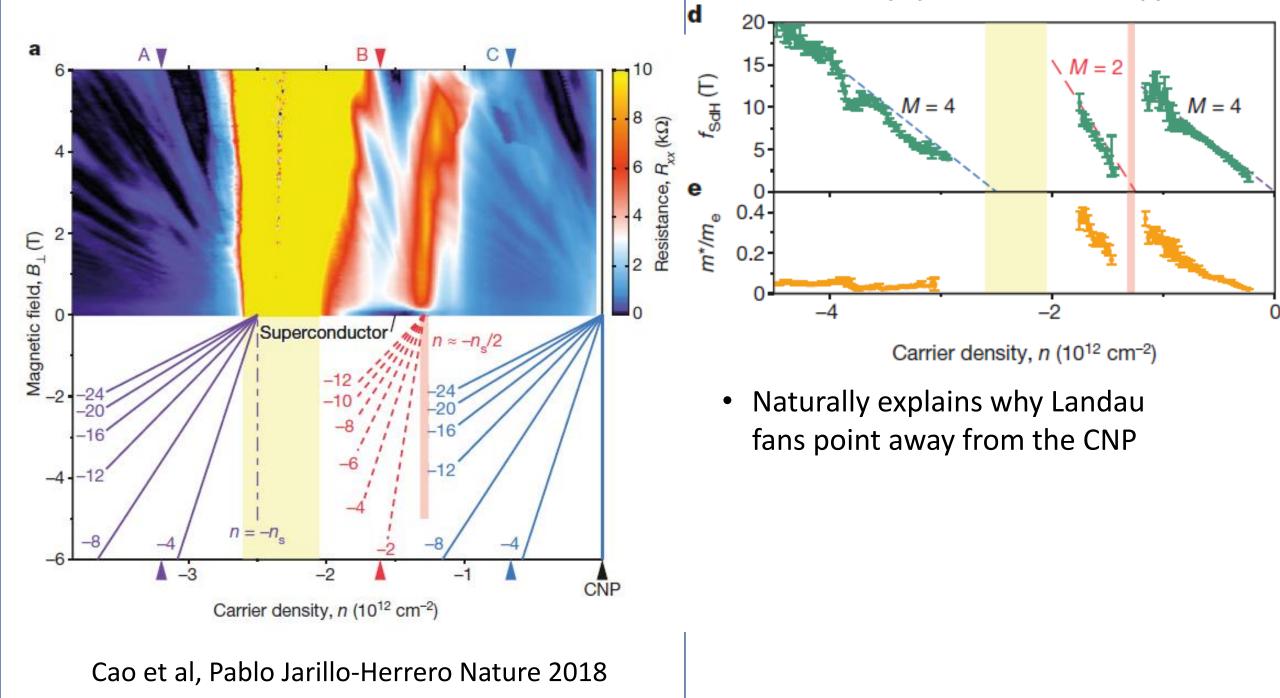
Exact single particle excitation spectrum at CNP in the strong coupling limit at small B-field

$$V_{int} X |\Omega\rangle = \frac{1}{2} \int dr \, dr' V(r - r') \big[\delta \varrho(r), [\delta \varrho(r'), X] \big] |\Omega\rangle$$



- Landau quantization even in strong coupling
- Imbalance in the sublattice polarization reflects the topology of the bands (blue is subl. A)
- Finite B-field causes splitting between the LLs even in the chiral limit due to broken C₂T

X. Wang and OV PRB 106, L121111 (2022)



X. Wang and OV PRB 106, L121111 (2022)

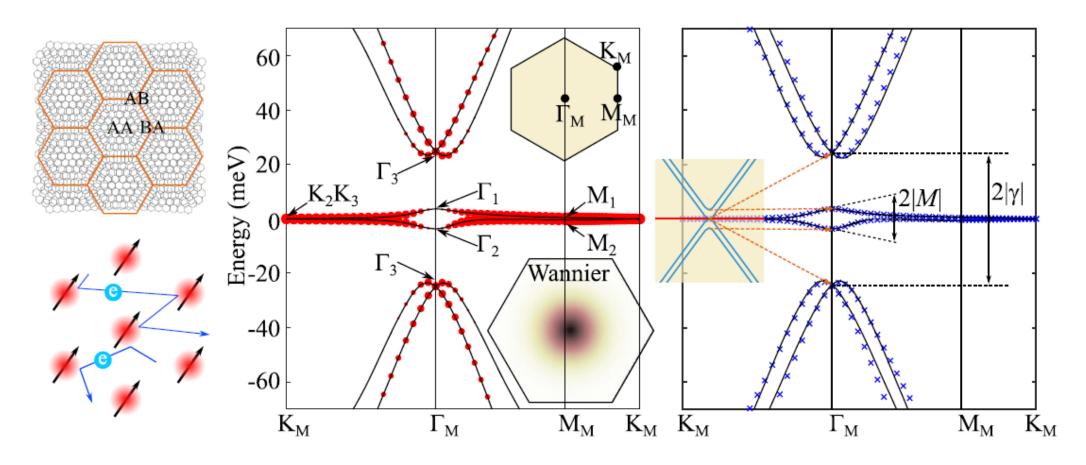
PHYSICAL REVIEW LETTERS 129, 047601 (2022)

Editors' Suggestion Featured in Physics

1

Magic-Angle Twisted Bilayer Graphene as a Topological Heavy Fermion Problem

Zhi-Da Song^{[1,2,*} and B. Andrei Bernevig^{2,3,4}



Topological heavy fermions (non-interacting Hamiltonian)

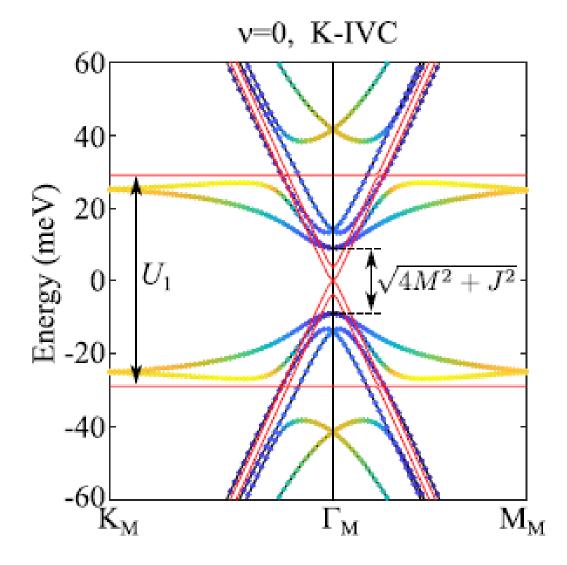
$$\hat{H}_{0} = \sum_{|\mathbf{k}| < \Lambda_{c}} \sum_{\tau s} \sum_{aa'=1}^{4} H_{aa'}^{c,\tau}(\mathbf{k}) \tilde{c}_{\mathbf{k}a\tau s}^{\dagger} \tilde{c}_{\mathbf{k}a'\tau s} + \sum_{|\mathbf{k}| < \Lambda_{c}} \sum_{\tau s} \sum_{a=1}^{4} \sum_{b=1}^{2} \left(e^{-\frac{1}{2}\mathbf{k}^{2}\lambda^{2}} H^{cf,v}(\mathbf{k})_{ab} \tilde{c}_{\mathbf{k}a\tau s}^{\dagger} \tilde{f}_{\mathbf{k}b\tau s} + \text{h.c.} \right)$$

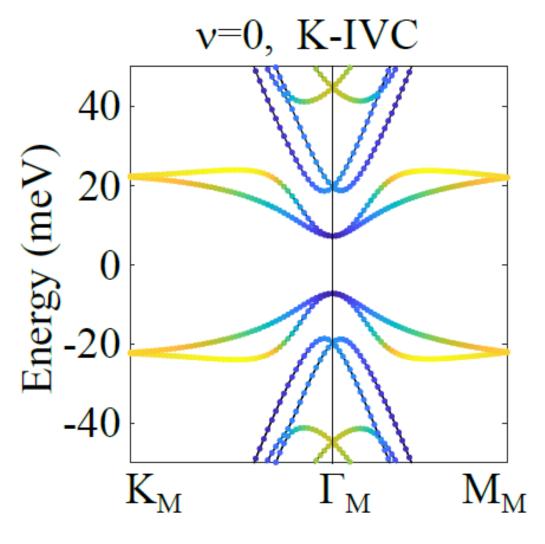
$$\begin{split} H^{c,\tau}_{aa'}(\mathbf{k}) &= \begin{pmatrix} 0_{2\times 2} & v_*(\tau k_x \sigma_0 + ik_y \sigma_z) \\ v_*(\tau k_x \sigma_0 - ik_y \sigma_z) & M \sigma_x \end{pmatrix} \\ H^{cf,\tau}_{ab}(\mathbf{k}) &= \begin{pmatrix} \gamma \sigma_0 + v'_*(\tau k_x \sigma_x + k_y \sigma_y) \\ 0_{2\times 2} \end{pmatrix} \end{split}$$

Song and Bernevig PRL2022

``one shot'' Hartree-Fock

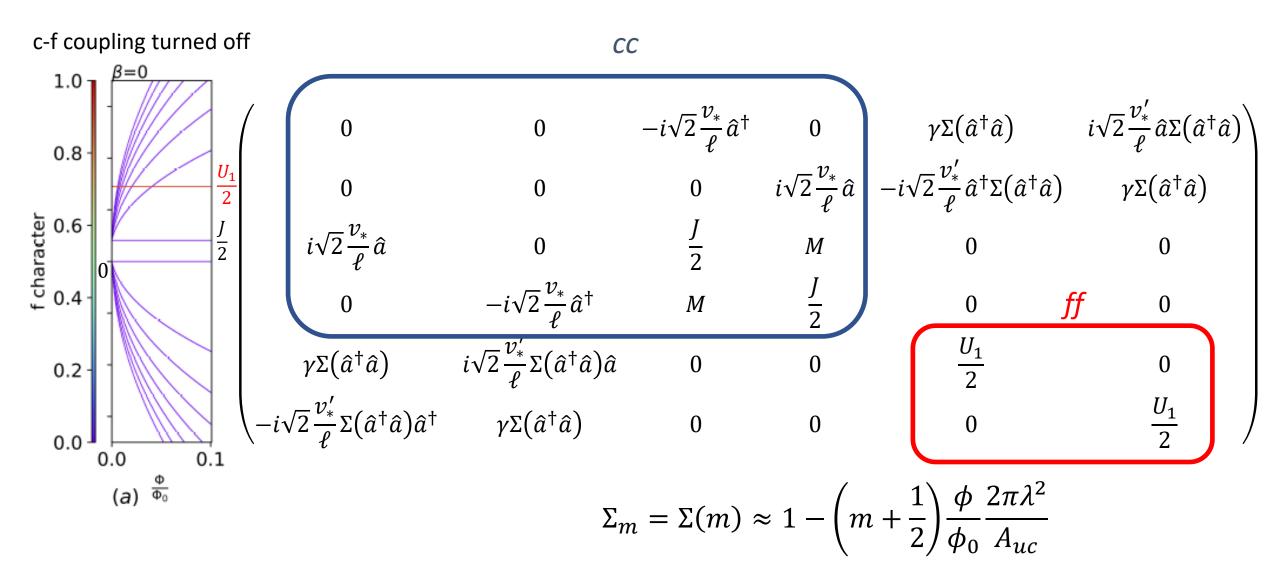
self-consistent Hartree-Fock



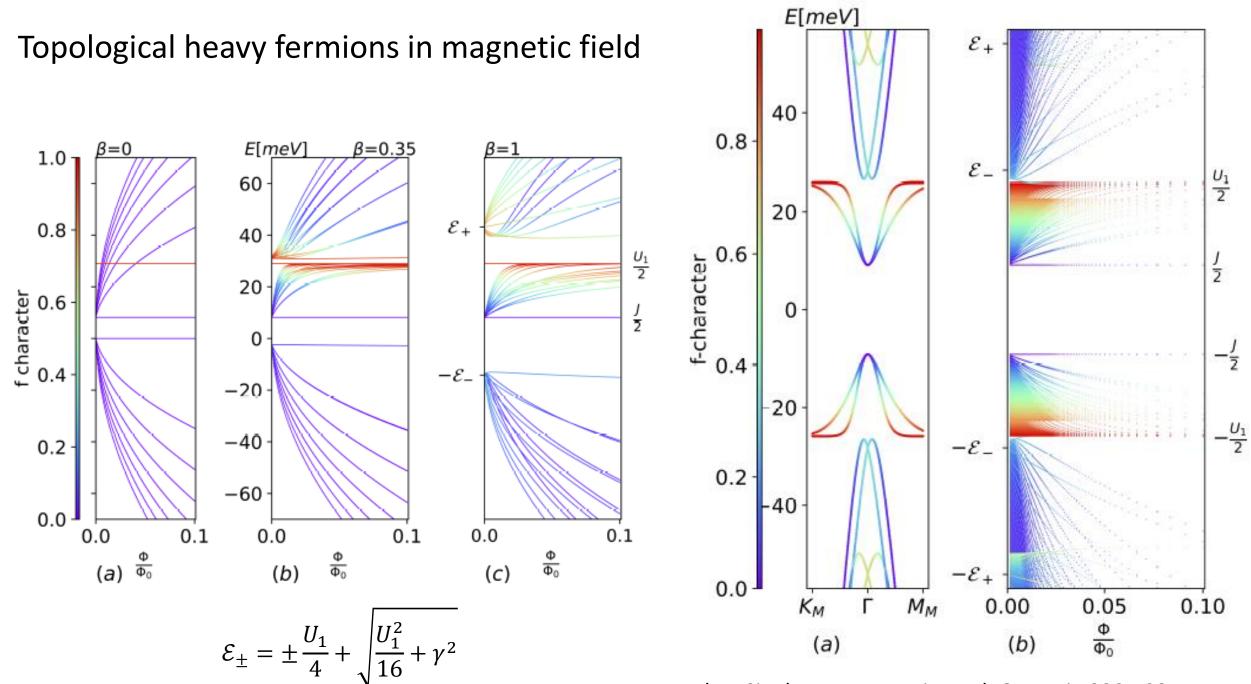


Song and Bernevig PRL2022

Topological heavy fermions in magnetic field

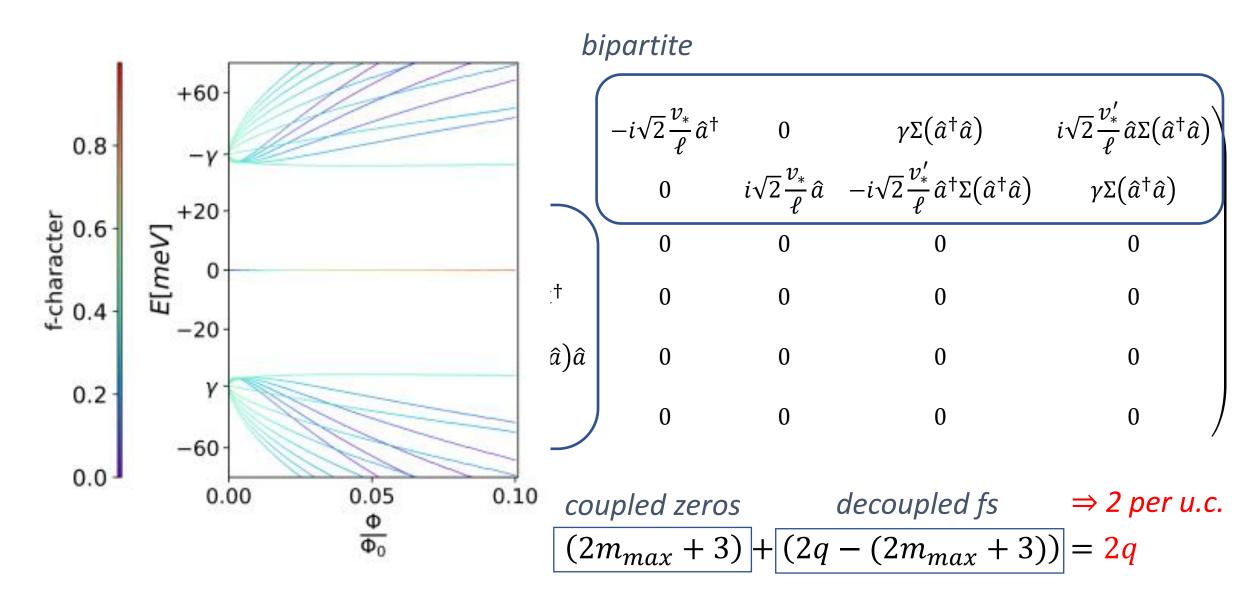


Keshav Singh, B.A. Bernevig et al, OV arXiv:2305.08171

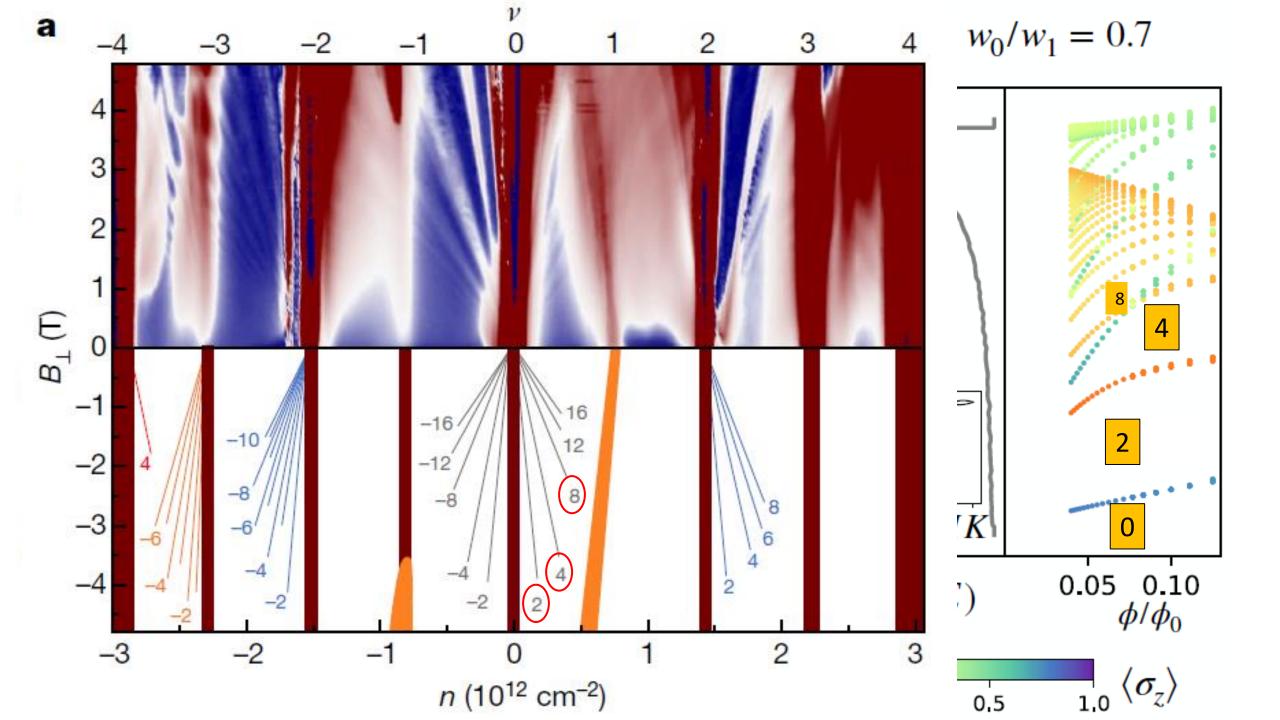


Keshav Singh, B.A. Bernevig et al, OV arXiv:2305.08171

Recovering the non-interacting topological heavy fermions in magnetic field (for M=0)

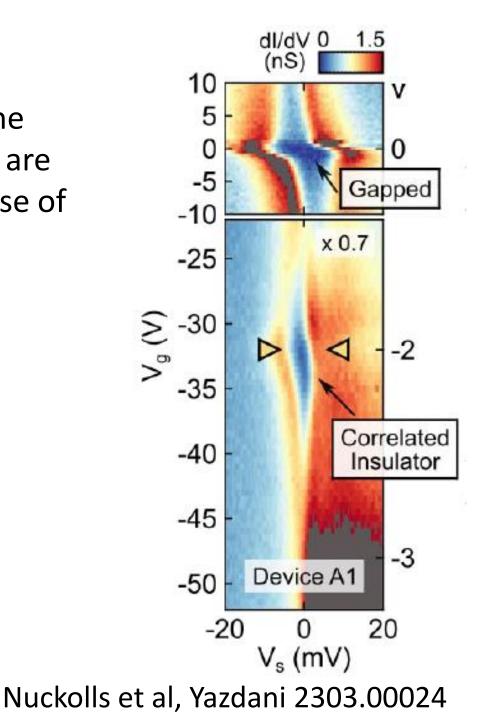


Keshav Singh, B.A. Bernevig et al, OV arXiv:2305.08171

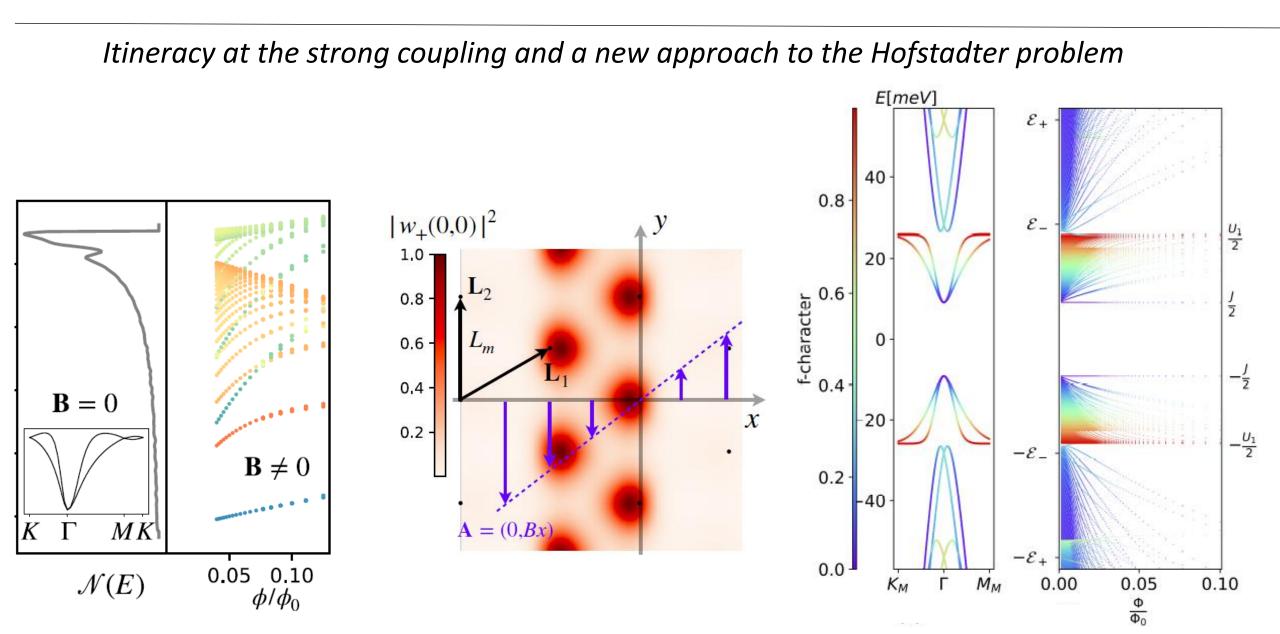


Although it is tempting to make a comparison with the transport data on the device with the gap at CNP, we are not ready to reach any conclusions yet, in part because of the absence of local strain characterization.

In this regard, it would be highly desirable to have the low B Landau level spectroscopy in ultra-low strain device regions where STM reveals a gap at the charge neutrality point without hBN substrate alignment.



Summary



Beyond the minimal continuum model: towards a more accurate description of electronic structure

Near degeneracy among many phases can cause sensitivity to terms in the minimal continuum model which were neglected.

This motivates development of a more accurate continuum theory from microscopic model.

We derived the effective continuum model for graphene bilayers by systematically expanding in real space gradients of the slow fermion fields and the atomic displacements allowing for an arbitrary **inhomogeneous** smooth lattice deformation, including a twist.

OV and Jian Kang, PRB **107** 075123 (2023) Jian Kang and OV, PRB **107** 075408 (2023)

Beyond the minimal continuum model: towards a more accurate description of electronic structure

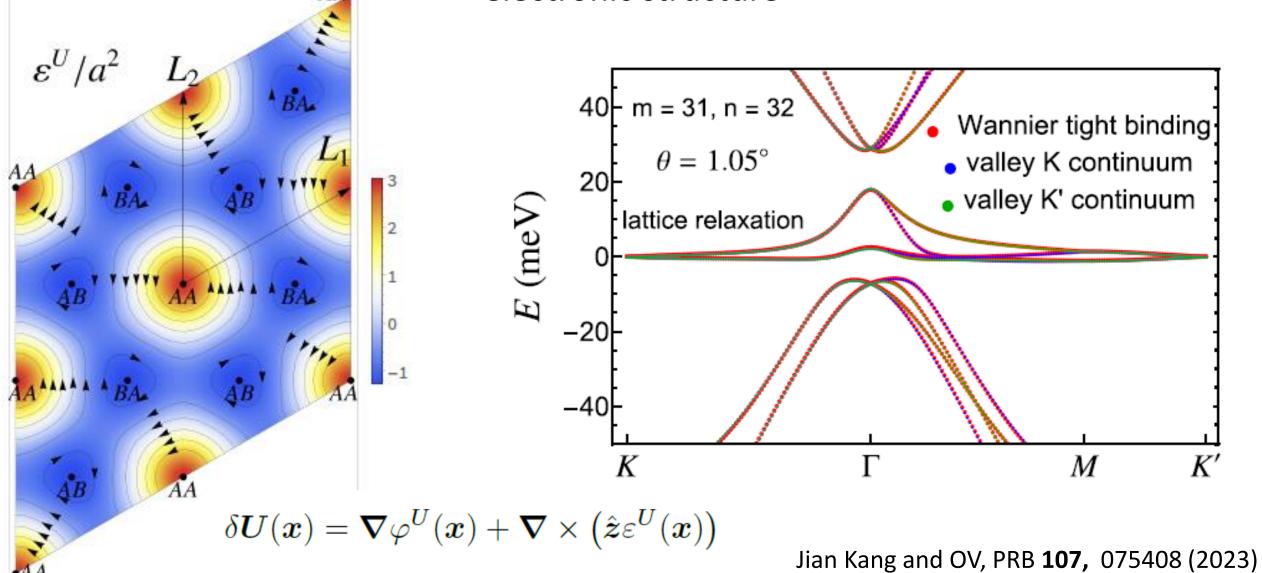
Set up a gradient expansion of the slow fermion envelope functions ψ and the atomic displacement field U (in Eulerian coordinates as in Balents SciPost Phys. **7**, 048 (2019))

	intralayer	interlayer
1 st order terms:	$\nabla \psi, \nabla U \sim O(200 meV)$	contact $w_{0,1} \sim O(100 meV)$
2 nd order terms:	$(\nabla\psi)^2, \nabla U \nabla\psi, (\nabla U)^2$	$ abla \psi, abla U$

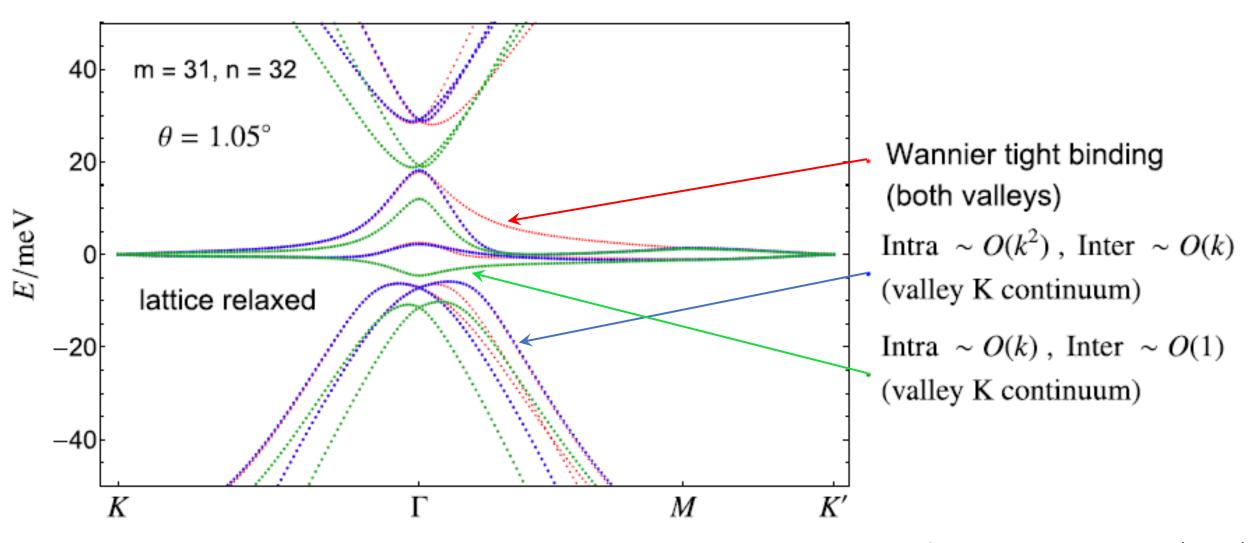
Smaller than 1st order by ~ $|K|a\theta[rad] = 4\pi\theta[rad]/3 = 0.08$ i.e. narrow bandwidth

OV and Jian Kang, PRB **107**, 075123 (2023) Jian Kang and OV, PRB **107**, 075408 (2023)

Beyond the minimal continuum model: towards a more accurate description of



Minimal and next-to-leading order continuum model: spectrum

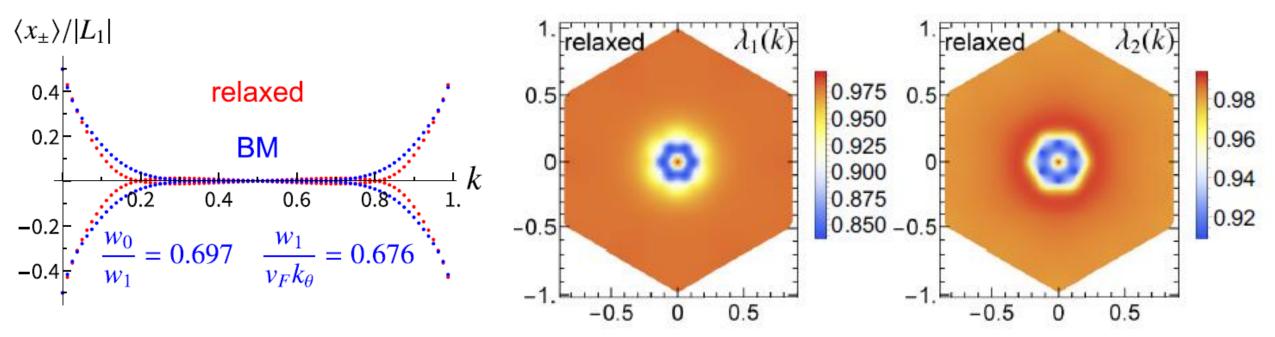


Jian Kang and OV, PRB **107**, 075408 (2023)

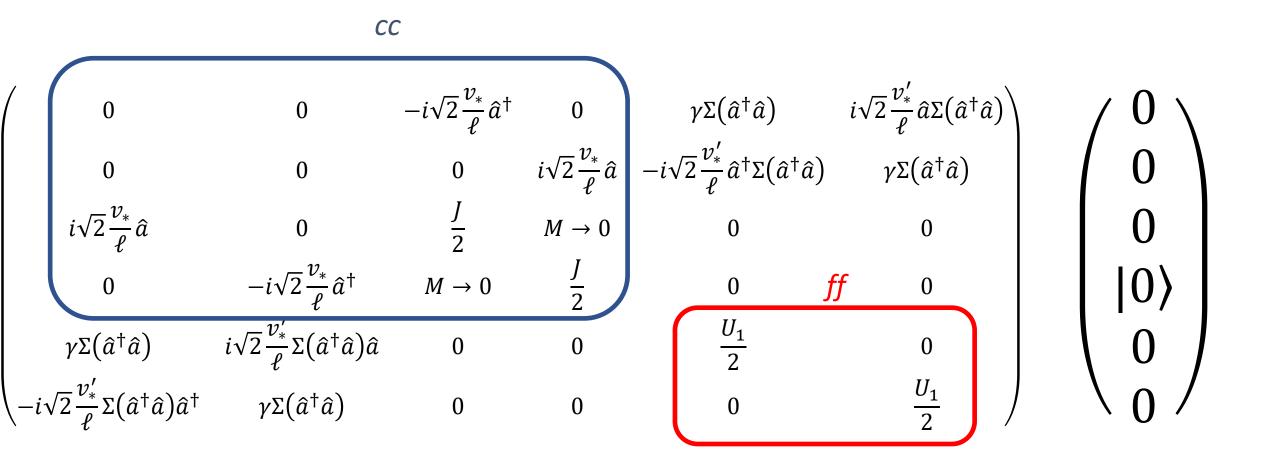
Minimal and next-to-leading order continuum model: wavefunctions

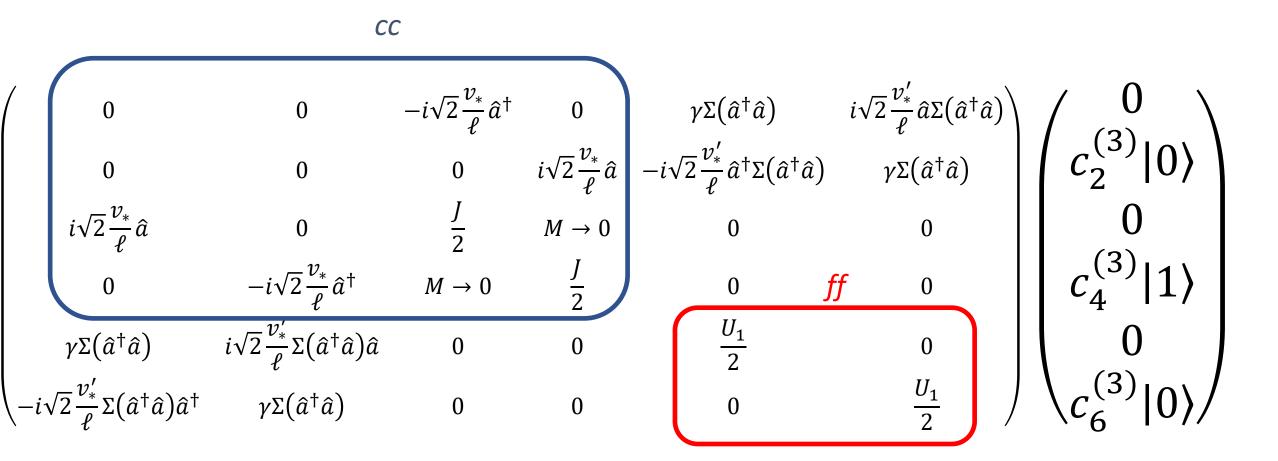
Berry curvature distribution further away from chiral limit

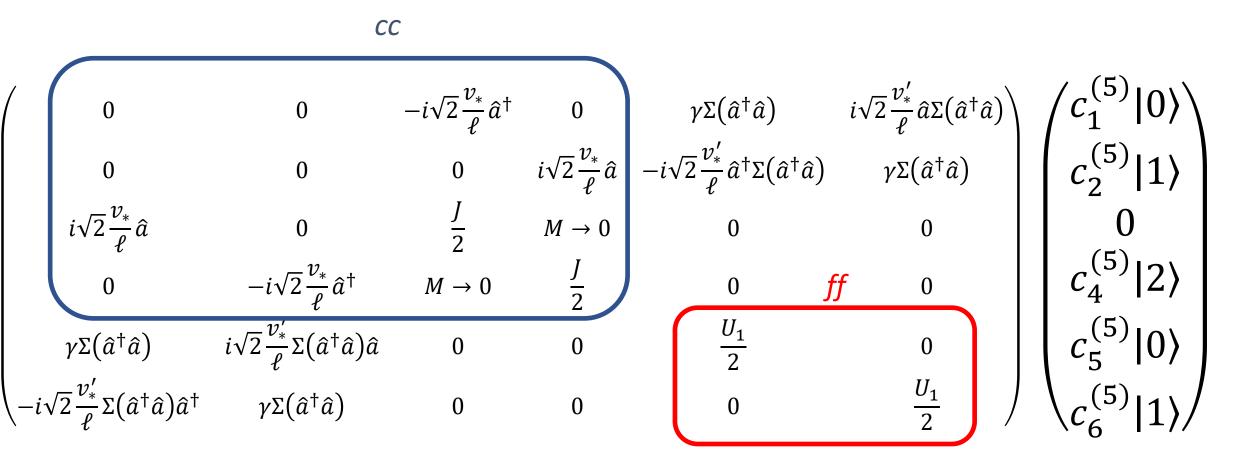
Deviations from 1 measure the p-h asymmetry of the narrow band wavefunctions

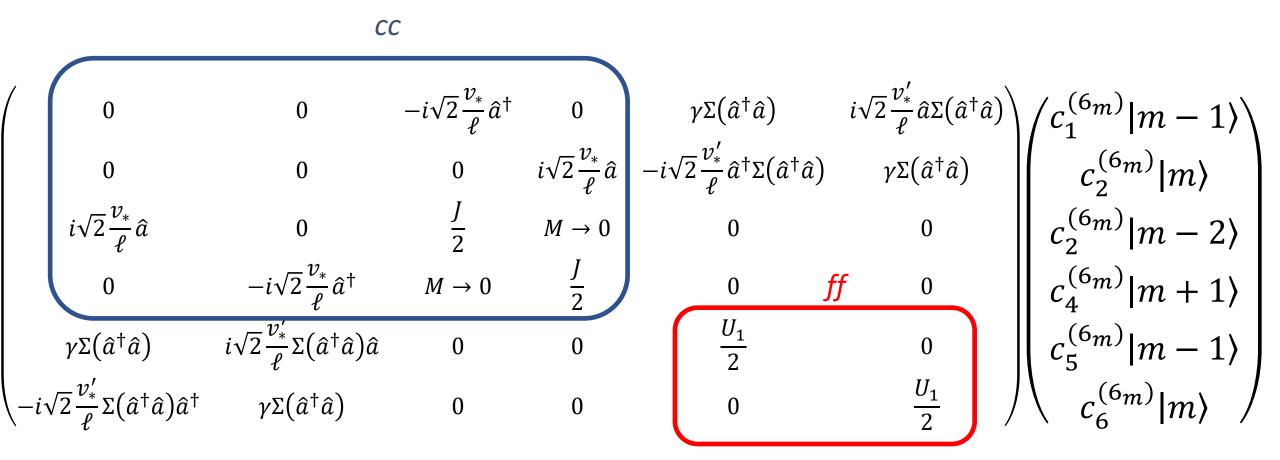


Jian Kang and OV, PRB **107**, 075408 (2023)









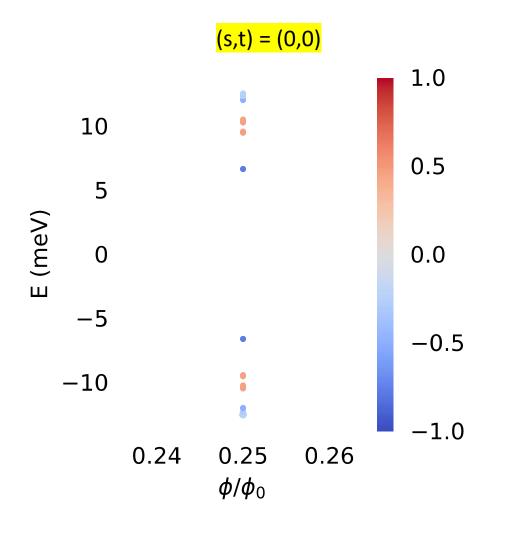
Strong coupling limit magic angle

Parameter choices:

$$\frac{w_1}{v_F k_{\theta}} = 0.586, \frac{w_0}{w_1} = 0.7, V_q = \frac{2\pi}{\epsilon_r q} \tanh \frac{q\xi}{2}, \xi = L_m, \epsilon_r = 15$$

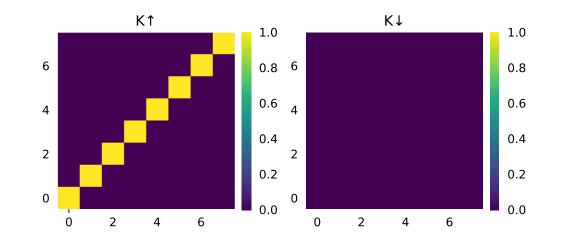
Dropping small angle rotation of Pauli matrices

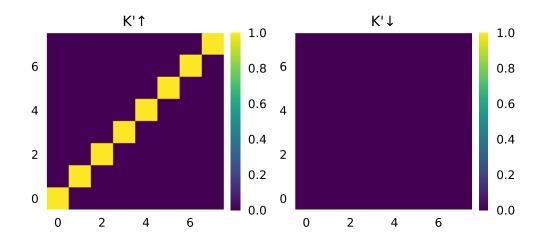
Hartree Fock density matrix: $P_{\alpha\beta}(k) \equiv \langle d^+_{\alpha k} d_{\beta k} \rangle$, where α, β labels valley, spin, and 2q bands



 $\Delta \approx 13.23$ meV

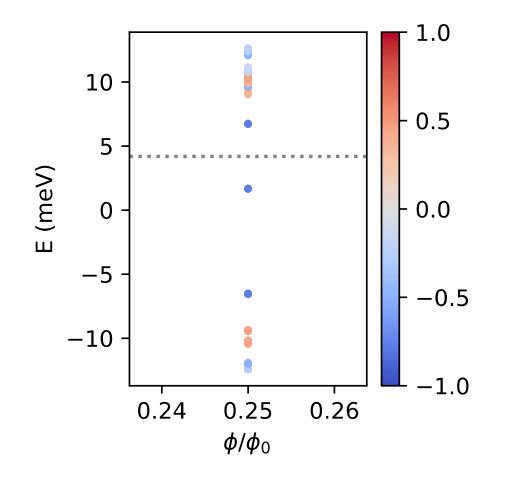
Density matrix in BM eigen basis; U(4) valley spin rotation symmetry



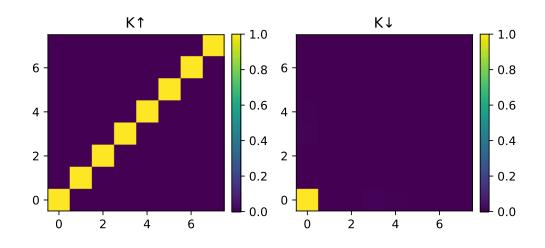


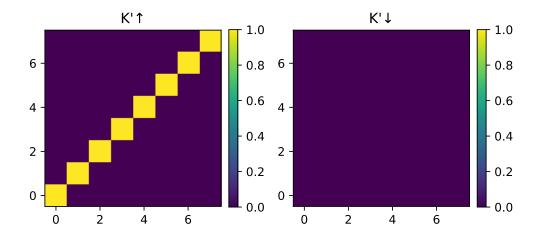
At low densities, Hartree-Fock spectrum corresponds to populating lowest energy strong coupling spectrum

Quantum Hall ferromagnetism at (s,t) = (0,1)



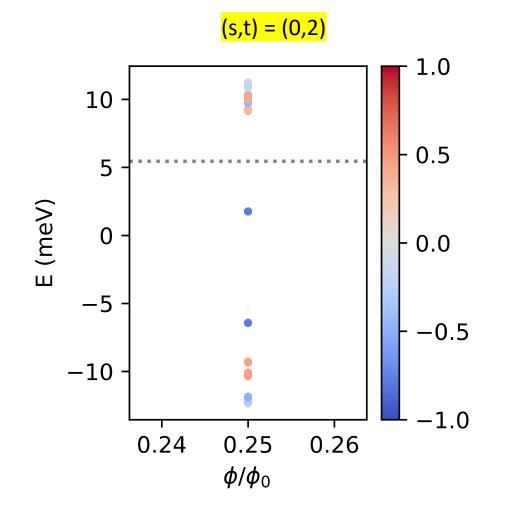
Density matrix in strong coupling basis



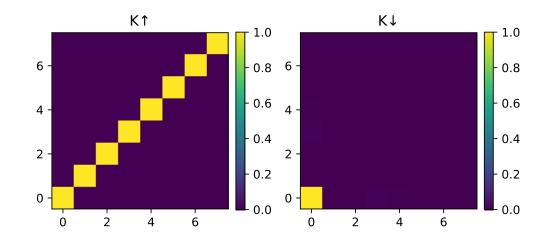


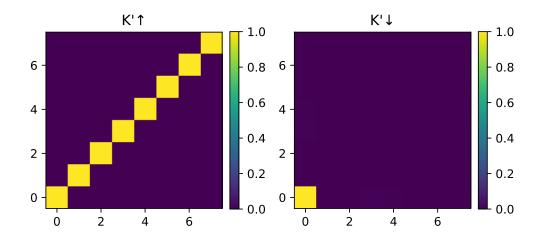
 $\Delta \approx 5.05 \text{meV}$

At low densities, Hartree-Fock spectrum corresponds to populating lowest energy strong coupling spectrum



Density matrix in strong coupling basis



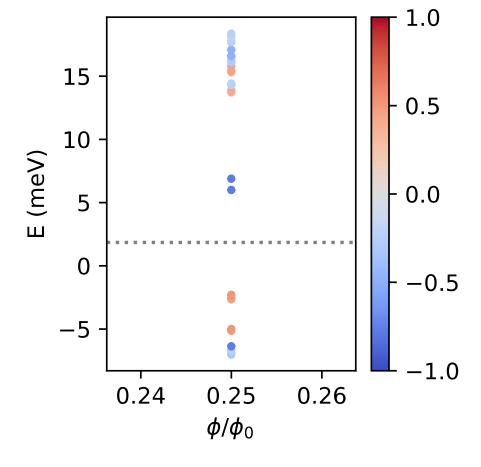


 $\Delta \approx 7.36 \text{meV}$

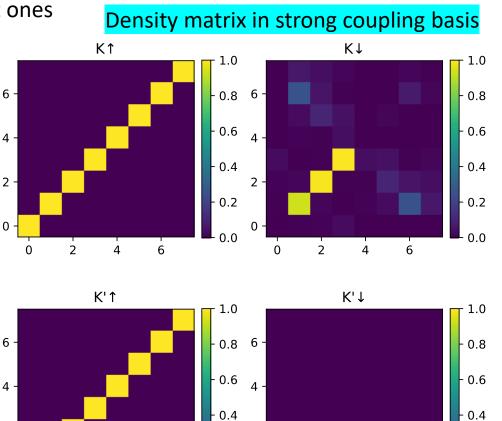
At higher densities, Hartree-Fock reorganizes the wavefunctions from CNP

Spectrum indicative of a first order phase transition near (s,t) = (0,3)

Heavy part of the spectrum gets brought down in energy instead of light ones



 $\Delta \approx 8.26 \text{meV}$



2 -

0

0

2

4

- 0.2

0.0

6

- 0.2

0.0

6

2 -

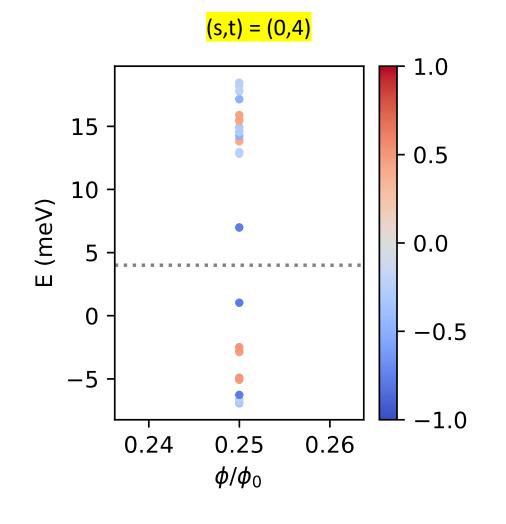
0 ·

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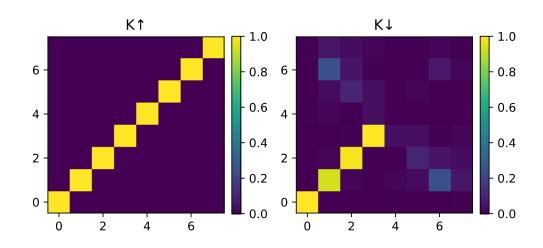
2

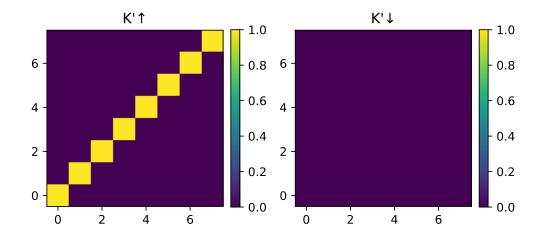
4

At higher densities, Hartree-Fock reorganizes the wavefunctions from CNP

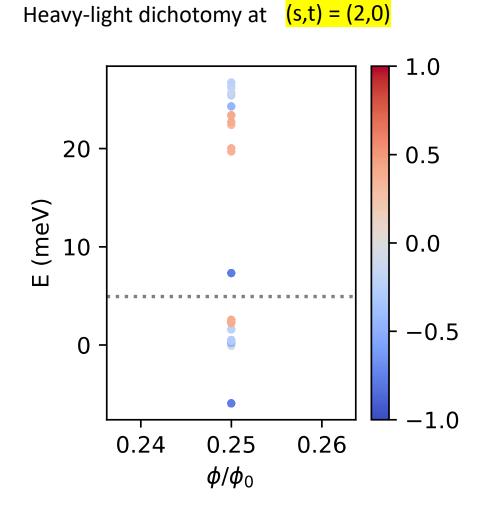


Density matrix in strong coupling basis

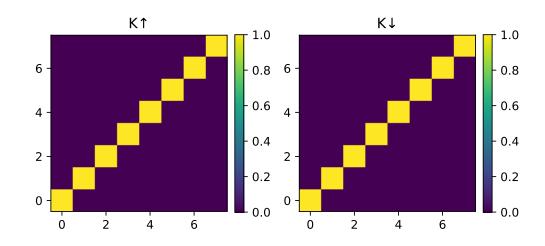


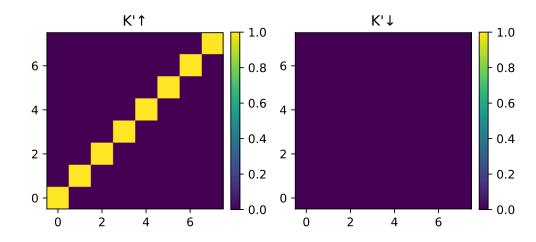


 $\Delta \approx 5.92 \text{meV}$



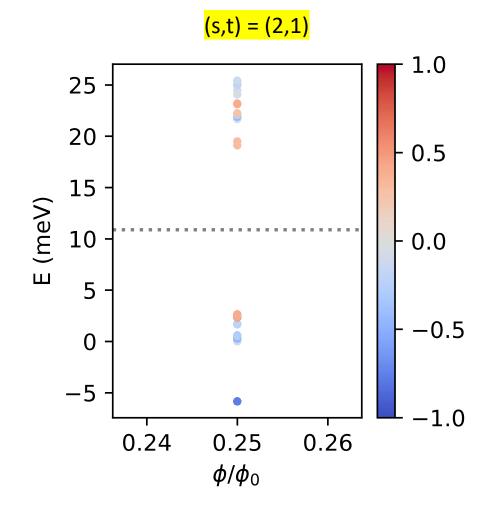
Density matrix in BM eigen basis; U(4) valley spin rotation symmetry



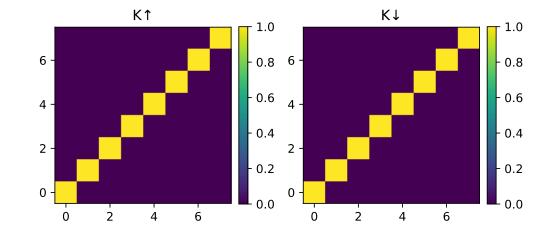


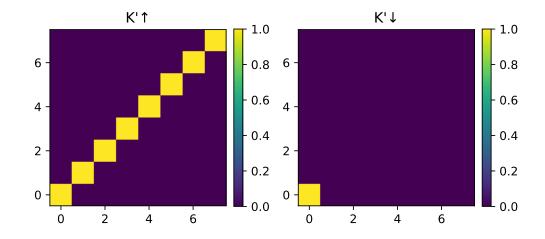
 $\Delta \approx 4.72 \text{meV}$

At low densities, Hartree-Fock spectrum corresponds to populating lowest energy strong coupling spectrum



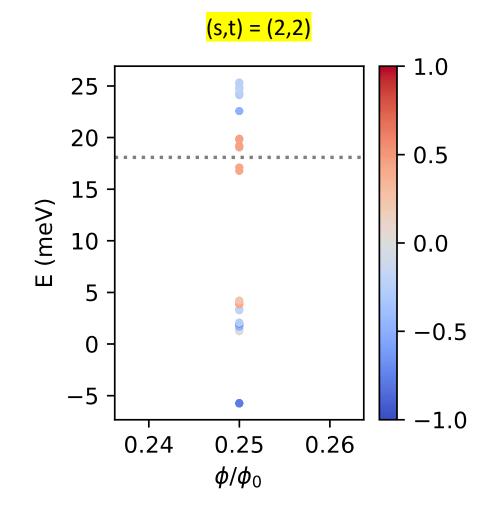
Density matrix in strong coupling basis



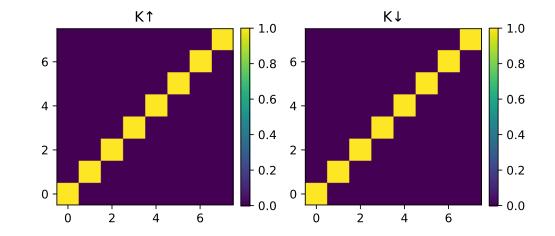


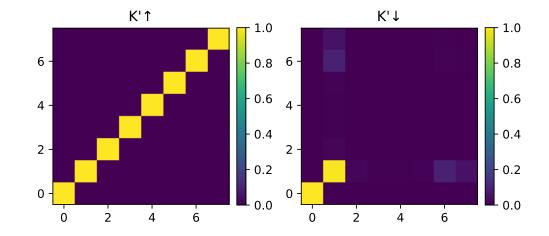
 $\Delta \approx 16.44$ meV

At low densities, Hartree-Fock spectrum corresponds to populating lowest energy strong coupling spectrum



Density matrix in strong coupling basis



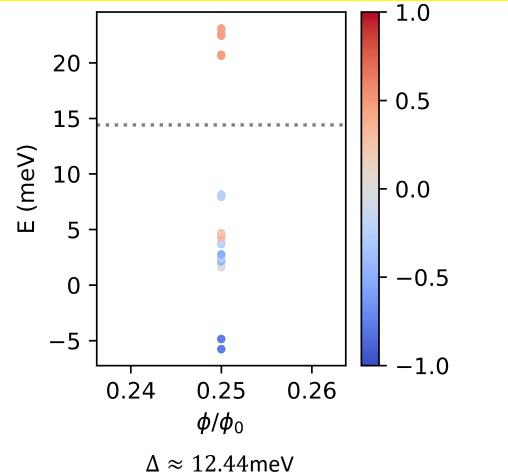


 $\Delta \approx 1.92$ meV

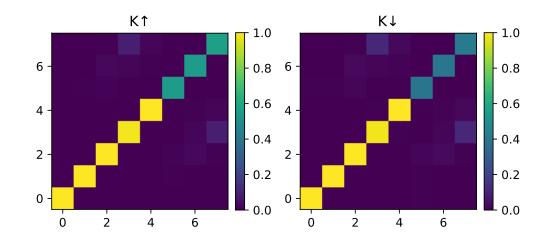
A highly energetically competitive state at (s,t) = (2,2) is maximum Chern polarization

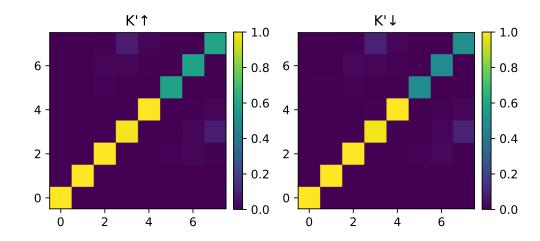
HF energy (chern): ≈ -4.36 meV per u.c. HF energy (flavor): ≈ -4.54 meV per u.c.

Can tip the energetic favor with w0/w1, screening length etc.

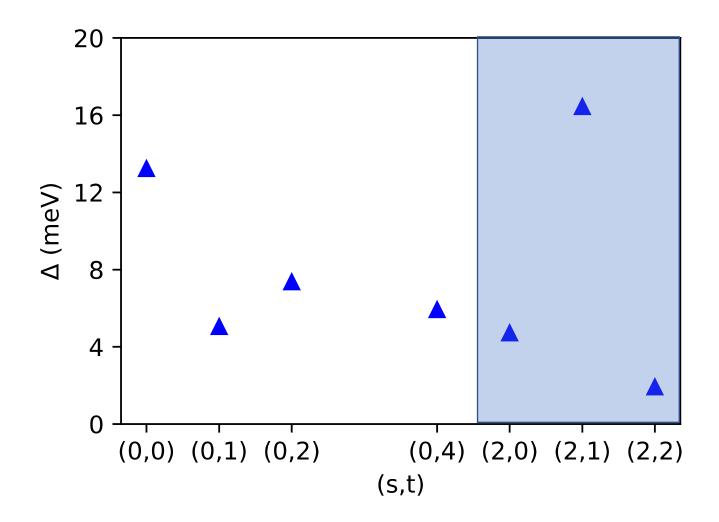


Density matrix in sublattice x valley τ_z eigenbasis; U(4) valley spin rotation symmetry





Hartree Fock spectral gaps on various Streda lines at flux 1/4



Analytic construction of exact zero modes at $B \neq 0$ in the chiral limit: anomaly and the index theorem

$$H_{BM} = \begin{pmatrix} v_F \sigma \cdot (\mathbf{p} - \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A}) & T(\mathbf{r}) e^{iq_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}} \\ e^{-iq_1 \cdot \mathbf{r}} T^{\dagger}(\mathbf{r}) & v_F \sigma \cdot (\mathbf{p} + \mathbf{q}_1 - \frac{e}{c} \mathbf{A}) \end{pmatrix}$$
Let
$$\begin{pmatrix} A_{top} \\ B_{top} \\ A_{bot} \\ B_{bot} \end{pmatrix} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} A_{top} \\ A_{bot} \\ B_{bot} \end{pmatrix} \text{ then } H_{BM} \rightarrow \begin{pmatrix} 0 & D^{\dagger} \\ D & 0 \end{pmatrix}$$
Unlike at $\mathbf{B} = 0$, there is no normalizable state on B-sublattice
$$K_m \bullet \Gamma$$

$$K_m \bullet \Gamma$$

$$f(z) e^{-\overline{z}z/4\ell_B^2} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{K_m}^{\mathbf{B}=0}(\mathbf{r}) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

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$$f(z) e^{-\overline{z}z/4\ell_B^2} \begin{pmatrix} \Psi_{K_m}^{\mathbf{B}=0}(\mathbf{r}) \\ 0 \end{pmatrix}$$

Popov and Milekhin PRB2021, Sheffer and Stern PRB2021; X. Wang and OV arXiv:2112.08620

Analytic construction of exact zero modes at $B \neq 0$ in the chiral limit: anomaly and the index theorem

B = 0 zero energy states at K_m and K'_m have an opposite parity under $PC_{2y}T$

Letting $f(z) = (1, z, z^2, ..., z^{N-1})$ we therefore prove linear independence of 2Landau levels worth of exact zero energy states living on A sublattice So for each $k_1 \in (0,1)$ and $k_2 \in (0, \frac{1}{q})$ we have 2p zero modes

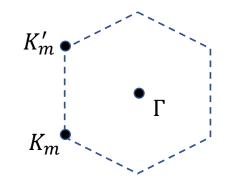
Because $\{H_{BM}, \sigma_z\} = 0$, by index theorem we must have

 $Tr\langle \sigma_z \rangle = n_+ - n_- = 2p$

At $\boldsymbol{B} = 0, Tr\langle \sigma_z \rangle = 0$. Therefore $Tr\langle \sigma_z \rangle$ is *discontinuous* at $\boldsymbol{B} = 0$

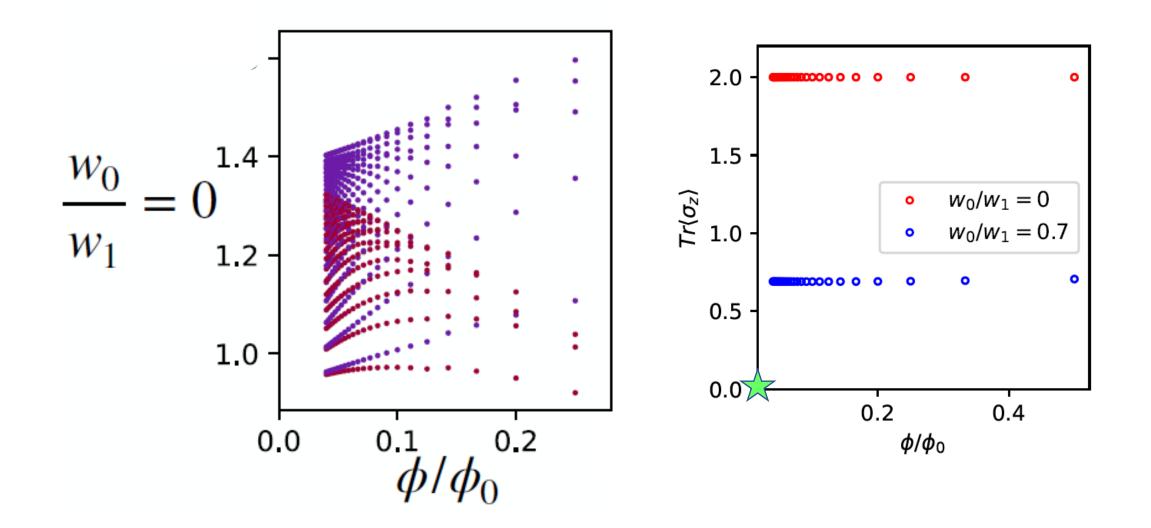
Popov and Milekhin PRB2021, Sheffer and Stern PRB2021; X. Wang and OV arXiv:2112.08620

Laughlin gauge: $A = \frac{1}{2}B(-y, x)$

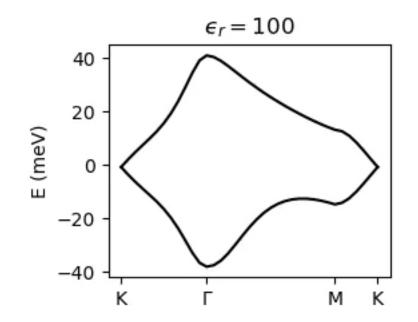


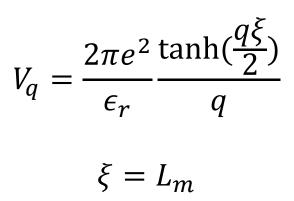
$$f(z)e^{-\bar{z}z/4\ell_B^2}\begin{pmatrix}\Psi_{K_m}^{B=0}(\boldsymbol{r})\\0\end{pmatrix}$$
$$f(z)e^{-\bar{z}z/4\ell_B^2}\begin{pmatrix}\Psi_{K_m'}^{B=0}(\boldsymbol{r})\\0\end{pmatrix}$$

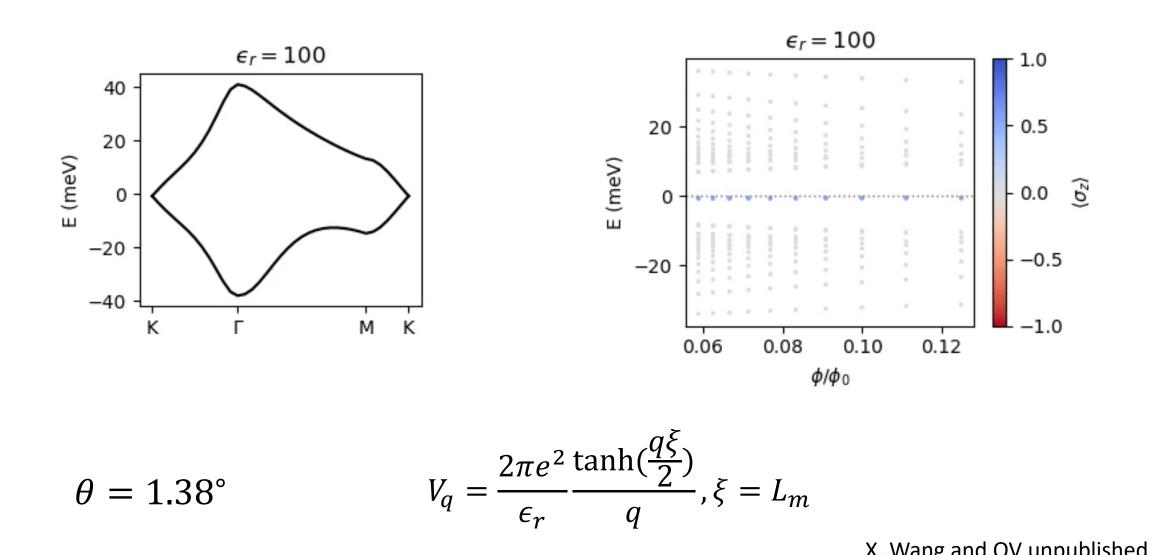
Exact single particle excitation spectrum at CNP in the strong coupling limit at small B-field at a single k_1, k_2



Evolution of the dispersion with interaction at v = -4from weak to intermediate coupling $\theta = 1.38^{\circ}$



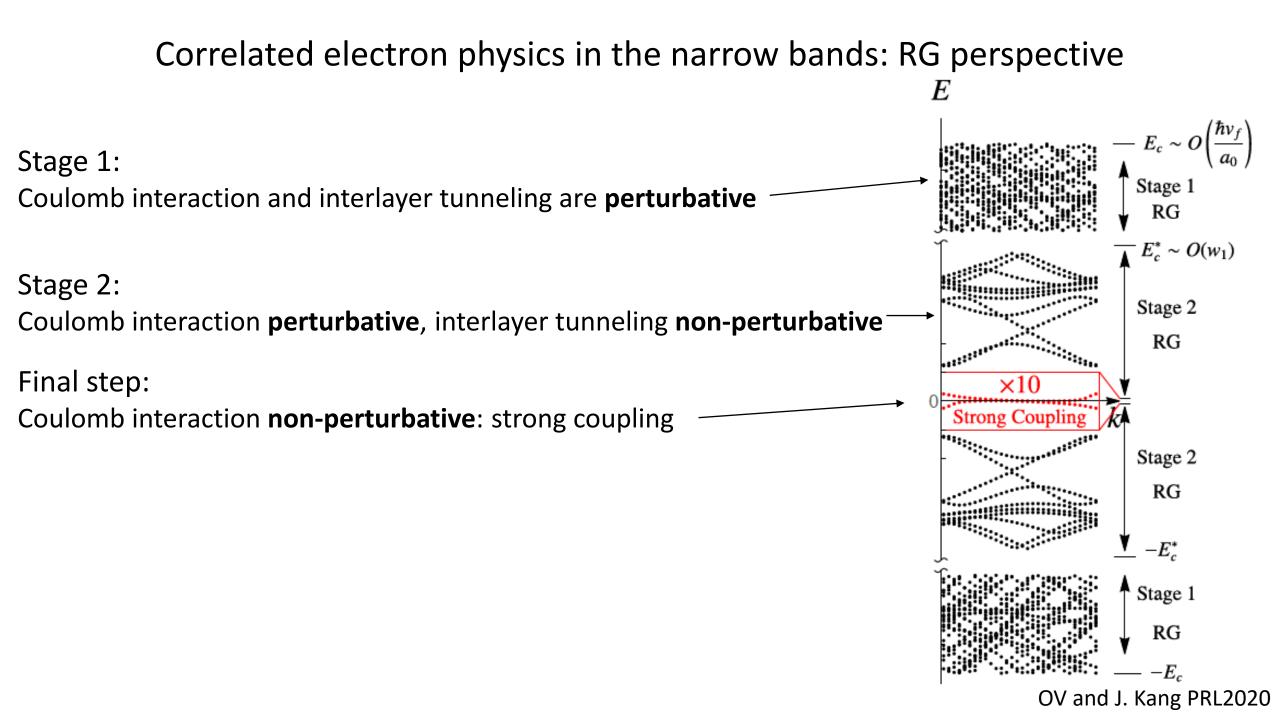




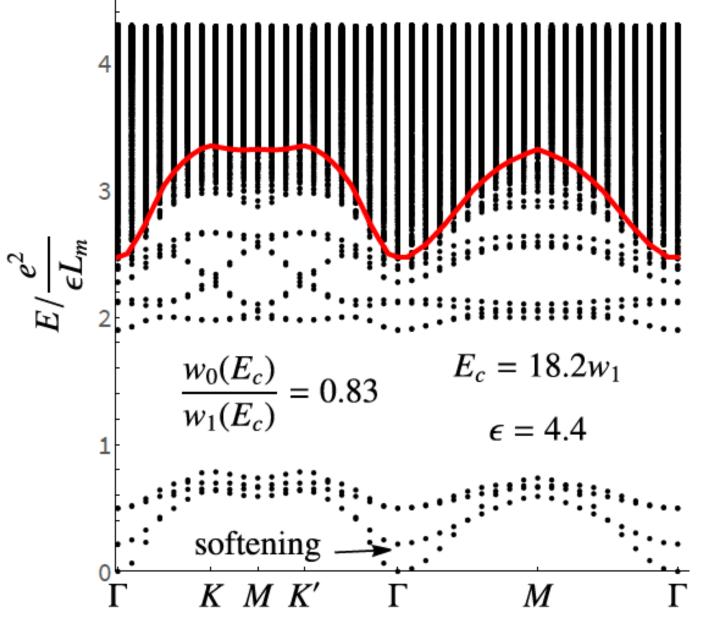
 $\theta = 1.38^{\circ}$

X. Wang and OV unpublished

 $\nu = -4$

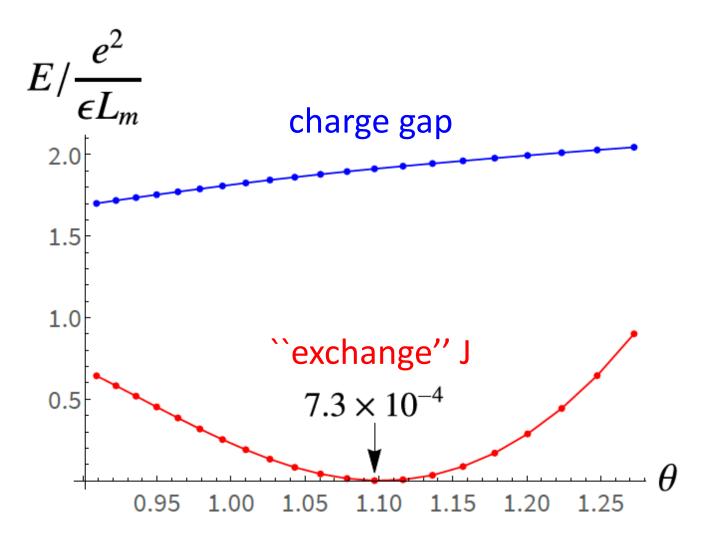


Exact (neutral) collective modes in the strong coupling limit at CNP



OV and Jian Kang, PRL 2020

Justification for the strong coupling approach



Jian Kang and OV (unpublished)